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# THE TIMES

35P

No. 66,059

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 28 1997

<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

## media times

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on the British film chief  
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TOMORROW

CAN FFION  
SAVE THE TORIES?

IN THE SATURDAY TIMES

SHERYL CROW

Why I can't make  
love work

PLUS: OUR NEW COMIC MUGG

'Jowell opposes tobacco decision'

# MPs attack Blair over Formula One

By JEFF SHERMAN  
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR came under renewed pressure over the Formula One affair yesterday as two Commons committees strongly criticised his decision to exempt motor racing from the tobacco sponsorship ban.

The Commons Health and European Legislation Committees rushed out reports seriously questioning the Prime Minister's justification for the special treatment for Formula One.

The reports from the two committees, both heavily Labour dominated, mark the first time that the Government has faced criticism by a select committee.

The Health Select Committee vehemently opposed the Prime Minister's decision to make Formula One a special case and recommended that it should have to find alternative sponsors, like other sports.

In a move which will infuriate Downing Street, David Hinchliffe, the Labour committee chairman suggested that Tessa Jowell, the Health Minister, who has been cross-examined by both committees, did not support the decision taken by Mr Blair to seek a permanent exemption for Formula One, and was overruled. In a one-page report, produced within hours of Ms Jowell's appearance, the committee said: "We are particularly concerned at the Government's proposal to seek an EC directive which contains provision for a permanent exemption for Formula One.

### Secret fund for Beckett office

Last night the Prime Minister's spokesman said that the aim was to get a European directive on tobacco sponsorship agreed. "The approach, the policy objective has always been the same to get a ban on tobacco on tobacco advertising and sponsorship," he said. The Government hit trouble on a second front yesterday when it emerged that 120 MPs have written a private letter to Gordon Brown opposing his decision to cut lone parent benefits by up to £1 a week and urging him to rethink. But the Prime Minister's spokesman insisted that there would be no bowing to pressure on the issue. The Government has got to govern and take decisions that all sorts of people might not like from time to time," he said.

The private letter to Gordon Brown, said to be signed by 120 MPs, argues that the policy should be shelved until the government has had time to assess its welfare to work programme to encourage lone parents in to jobs. MPs privately argue that it should be delayed for six or 12 months. The letter which is believed to have been signed by some principal private secretaries (who are not allowed to publicly oppose government policy) was sent after Mr Brown's announcement on childcare on Tuesday.

The backbenchers have made clear that the out-of-school childcare package will do little to help lone parents with under school age children or those who do not want to work.

## Deception charge in Guinness report

By GEORGE SIVELL AND PAUL DURMAN

INSPECTORS from the Department of Trade and Industry accuse the main participants in the Guinness affair of "an enterprise of deception" in their report published yesterday, ten years after it was commissioned.

Although further prosecutions are unlikely, the report cast a cloud over City practices. The inspectors accuse those involved of cynical disregard for laws and regulations, a cavalier misuse of company money and a con-

tempt for truth and common honesty.

But Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, said none of the key figures criticised would be disqualified from being company directors. The DTI said Mrs Beckett had received strong legal advice suggesting that she would be unable to sustain an application for disqualification of any of those criticised in the report.

David Donaldson, QC, and Ian Watt, an accountant, who had to wait for criminal proceedings to end before they could publish their 300-page report, said that even after ten years, some of their findings would shock the City.

The report paints a vivid picture of how it was possible for the Guinness camp artificially to raise the price of the brewing giant's shares in the closing stages of its bitter battle for Distillers, the Scotch drinks company, in 1986.

City action, page 27  
"Win at any price", page 32

### Spencer goes on the attack

Earl Spencer went on the offensive yesterday by revealing the size of the divorce deal he has offered his estranged wife, Victoria, and encouraging his closest friend to defend his reputation.

David Horton-Fawkes dismissed allegations that the earl had had a dozen affairs as "malicious".

Hunting backers gather for vigil

Hunting supporters began a 24-hour vigil outside Westminster as MPs prepared to give a big Commons majority to day to a backbench Bill to outlaw fox-hunting. Michael Foster's Bill is highly unlikely to become law. The Government again insisted that it would not provide extra

time. Page 7

Leading article, page 21

Minimum wage deal offered

The Government yesterday offered for the first time in Britain to all employees an entitlement to be paid not less than a legal minimum wage rate. Ministers proclaimed that they were delivering on one of Labour's key election pledges as they launched the legislation.

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If you think this is slow you should have tried waiting for the report from the DTI

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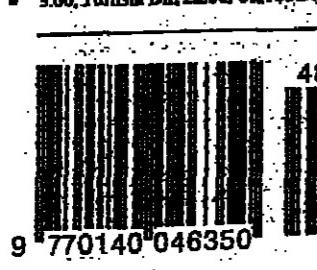
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Paula Yates with her daughter Heavenly Hiraani arriving at the cathedral yesterday

## Tears and rock music at Hutchence funeral

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

A DISTRAUGHT Paula Yates said goodbye to her partner, Michael Hutchence, at a moving and sombre but colourful funeral in Sydney yesterday.

Friends had to support Ms Yates as she entered St Andrew's Cathedral for the hour-long service for her rock star lover, who was found hanged aged 37 in his hotel suite at the weekend.

Ms Yates cradled their 16-month-old daughter, Heavenly Hiraani Tiger Lily, as she sat in the front pew. Occasionally the service became too much for her and she had to be comforted. She did not wear the wedding dress bought for her planned marriage to Hutchence — which she had said she would dye black for the funeral. Instead she wore a sleeveless, knee-length, white-floral-patterned black dress.

Thousands of fans stood outside the cathedral as the singer's coffin, adorned with a single yellow tiger lily and 500 blue irises, arrived.

About 1,200 mourners had

seats in the cathedral, among them 200 invited guests, members of Mr Hutchence's family, friends and his band, INXS.

The mourners included

Tom Jones, the singer, Kylie

Minogue, the former soap star turned singer, who had an affair with Mr Hutchence several years ago, and one of his more recent girlfriends, Helena Christensen, the model.

At one stage a man jumped up from his seat on the balcony and shouted obscenities. "He was going to do a swan dive," said a police officer who managed to restrain the man.

The eulogies included one from Andrew Farriss, a fellow INXS member, who urged fans not to copy Mr Hutchence's death.

Australia has one of the worst youth suicide rates in the world.

"We ask the band's fans and those who are touched by his death not to react in any way that would hurt themselves," he said. "Michael would not have wanted that."

In an emotional tribute, Rhett Hutchence said he had visited the hotel room where his brother had died. "I spent some time in his room the other night to see if it had any answers," he said. "It seemed a sad room — it definitely wasn't Michael."

Following the hymn *The Lord's My Shepherd*, the Dean of Sydney told the congregation: "We must thank God for the person whose life we shared and who made memories possible."

The service closed with the

coffin being carried out by the

surviving members of INXS

and Rhett, as the band's song,

*Never Tear Us Apart*,

resounded through the cathedral.

Still clutching her

daughter, Ms Yates followed

as the family departed for a

private cremation ceremony.

Minutes later, the last person to

see Mr Hutchence alive, the

actress Kym Wilson, followed.

She spent four hours in the

singer's Ritz Carlton suite in

the early hours of Saturday.

Hutchence thousands

of fans paid tribute

Final hours, page 5

## Jailed rapist can sue woman who claimed harassment

BY TIM JONES, FRANCES GIBB AND JOANNA BALE

A CONVICTED rapist accused of harassing a woman with letters and phone calls from prison was yesterday given permission to sue her for libel for writing to the police about his behaviour.

Lynne Griffiths was said to be "devastated and bewildered" by the decision by the Court of Appeal in which costs were also awarded against her.

David Daniels' earlier attempt to sue her was thrown out in the High Court an abuse of process designed to harass the woman with "no prospect of success".

But yesterday, in a ruling which has far-reaching implications for the legal status of written complaints from the public to the police, the Appeal Court said he had the right to sue.

The ruling is at odds with one from the same court in July which said that witnesses who make statements in connection with possible criminal proceedings are entitled to immunity from any civil action brought on the basis of their statements.

Daniels, 43, was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1983 for one charge of rape and three of attempted rapes. For a year he terrorised a district of Swansea and was dubbed the Beast of Mount Pleasant Hill.

Armed with a flick knife, he pounced on girls as they walked up the hill or attacked them after offering them lifts in his car. He threatened to cut the breasts off one girl and stabbed another girl in her thighs.

Mrs Griffiths, a bank clerk, only knew Daniels because he served her while he was employed at a local newsagents close to where she worked. But Daniels began



Daniels was sentenced to life in 1983

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INSTRUMENTS FOR PROFESSIONALS

## Beware outbreaks of fatal foot-in-mouth disease

IT TAKES an old pro to show how things are done. During exchanges on the single currency, but keen to ask about single mothers, Dennis Skinner reminded MPs that Marks & Spencer was planning to accept payment in euros — "and some of these customers will be single mothers".

The Speaker sighed. "And some single mothers will have less to spend, because . . ." And he was away. Gordon Brown stonewalled, of course, but Skinner had got it off.

Brown stonewalls well. Alistair Darling, his impressive Chief Secretary, is learning. Darling, who has removed his beard, grows smoother at every session. But yesterday he slipped. Invited

by the charmingly-named Howard Stoate (Lab, Dartford) to say a few words on the wonderfulness of the Government, Darling thought he heard a Tory jeer. This stung him.

"They scoff," he said, "but the stock market is up, a sign that business has absolute confidence in this Government" [my italics].

Stop! Stock markets can go down. One day this one will. Then enemies will ask whether — since the Chief Secretary stated on November 27, 1997, that a rising market shows business "has absolute confidence" in Government — he now accepts that business has no confidence. Read my lips, Mr D: "A-v-o-i-d h-o-s-t-a-g-e-s t-o-f-f-o-r-t-u-n-e."

I have been making a study of the things politicians wish they never said. Sometimes (as in Mr Darling's case) the mistake lies not in the remark, which may be true, but in the making of it — which may be untrue.

But there is a quite different category of political mis-utterance, a category for which the session which followed later that afternoon looks likely to have yielded a rich harvest. When politicians commit themselves to opinions about technical matters they do not under-

stand, time finds them out. David Clarke made a statement on "Computers (Millennium Compliance)". We gathered this was something to do with the problem of getting computer year-dates to begin with a 2.

This Sketch does not mock. The Midland Bank (quoted yesterday) is doubtless right in giving a warning that one business in five may go bust. But I do not pretend to know. MPs pretend. For the Tories, Cheryl Gillan (Chesham and Amersham) went on so long about

"embedded systems" and "the cap gemini survey" that Skinner shouted, "Hurry up, the millennium's arrived."

Rhodri Morgan (Lab, Cardiff West) said this was the biggest thing since calendars changed from Julian to Gregorian in 1700 or whatever". His excitement mounted. "An issue the whole House and whole country needs to be involved in!" he cried.

For the Liberal Democrats, Malcolm Bruce was reduced by the importance of it all to stammering "The gap is huge" and predicting a public-spending meltdown.

And they may all be right, of course. But in moments of scepticism, I comfort myself with the words of Prime Minister Asquith

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Leading Unionist shot in the head

A leading unionist was shot and critically wounded in north Belfast last night, the victim of what appeared to be an internal loyalist dispute. The man, named as Jackie Mahood, was shot in the head by two masked gunmen in the Crumlin Road.

The shooting came as Northern Ireland's Unionists prepared for a conference at Hatfield House in Hertfordshire today aimed at uniting David Trimble's Ulster Unionists and the Democratic Unionist and UK Unionist parties.

#### Opera post

The Royal Opera House yesterday appointed Judy Grahame to sort out its troubled image. For the past two years she has been marketing manager of the BBC Proms and helped the London Philharmonic Orchestra to win its residency at the Festival Hall.

#### Au pair refusal

Louise Woodward, who was convicted of the manslaughter of a baby in her care, said she has "no intention" of selling her story. In a statement released in Boston, where she is living pending her appeal, Miss Woodward said: "We have turned down six-figure offers."

#### On-line lottery

An on-line computer lottery with 50 draws a day and a maximum jackpot of £25,000 was launched. Tickets for Pronto, sold initially in pubs and clubs, will cost £1 each with 20p going to charity. But the Government believes it will encourage addictive gambling.

#### Forensic tests

Police searching for Gracia Morton, 40, who disappeared in west London two weeks ago, have asked forensic scientists to examine certain items. Scotland Yard refused to comment on a report that these include a page from a motorway atlas and a bloodstained palm print.

#### Driving purge

The Government yesterday signalled a fresh assault on drink-driving by announcing moves to target serious and persistent offenders. Proposals to reduce the drink-drive limit will also be included in a government consultation exercise on cutting drink-drive deaths.

#### Falkland link

Falkland Islanders will be getting their first live television service from Britain for Christmas. A 24-hour satellite link is due to begin on Monday, carrying programmes from the BBC and ITV, and live football matches from Sky.

Santa's surprise, page 41

#### Farson dies



Dan Farson, above, the writer, photographer and drinker, died aged 70 in a Devon hospital yesterday after a long battle against cancer of the pancreas. Farson found fame as a raconteur on London's Soho pub scene and was a drinking partner of the late Jeffrey Bernard.

#### Stewart sacked

Rod Stewart, the rock singer, has been sacked as patron of a Royal British Legion club in Muswell Hill, North London, because he donated only £10 in his four years in the position. The club had hoped he would be a major fundraiser for their cause.

## Beckett's office 'gets thousands from secret trust'

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MARGARET BECKETT is receiving financial assistance from a blind trust set up before the election, despite a pledge by the Labour leadership to publicise the names of all its donors.

The President of the Board of Trade is using the confidential source of money to help to run her constituency office, which is managed by her husband, Leo, in the Commons.

The revelation that a senior Cabinet minister has maintained a trust fund, which was set up when she was in Opposition, will be seized on by Tory MPs to try to revive the charge of Labour sleaze. They will today press Mrs Beckett to name the donors or close the trust.

Only yesterday Sir Patrick Neill, QC, who replaced Lord Nolan as the chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, confirmed that his inquiry into fundraising would investigate blind trusts.

Two Labour MPs and two other individuals are the anonymous trustees of the Margaret Beckett Research and Administration Trust, which channels thousands of

pounds each year into her office. The trust is registered in the latest Commons register of MPs' interests.

Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and John Prescott, who operated trusts before the election to run their offices, wound them up on May 1. The organiser of Mr Blair's blind trust, Michael Levy, was given a life peerage after the election.

The Labour leader has committed the party to publicising the names of all its donors who give more than £5,000.

The money raised by Mrs Beckett's trustees is channelled through the Commons' office to pay the salary of a researcher in her Commons office. Although the trustees of Mr Blair's blind trust, which was thought to have raised at least £500,000 a year, were publicised, the trustees behind Mrs Beckett's fund have not been made public.

Mrs Beckett said: "They would prefer to retain their confidentiality. They do not want to be in the public eye. We are happy to respect that." Mr Beckett denied that he and his wife were in breach of any rules, and said that they had obtained clearance from the



Margaret Beckett with her husband, Leo. He declined to name the donors

## Blair ends 100 years of lobby secrecy

BY PHILIP WEBSTER

TONY BLAIR brought 100 years of official secrecy surrounding relations between Downing Street and the press to an end yesterday by announcing that, from now on, his official spokesman would go "on the record".

Alastair Campbell, Mr Blair's press secretary, took a microphone and tape-recorder to the meeting of the Lobby, the 120-strong group of accredited political correspondents, which has been in operation at Westminster since 1894. There have been regular briefings for more than 60 years, almost always unattributable.

A 30-minute gathering which has often been shrouded in a rather spurious mystery was recorded for the first time.

Mr Campbell will be known as the Prime Minister's official spokesman. The hope is that his words will have added authority through being an on-the-record representation of Mr Blair's position, and that the credibility of anonymous sources giving a conflicting view of the government line will be diminished.

Mr Campbell will not be named because, he said, such a move would be to build up an unelected official into a figure in his own right.

Peter Riddell, page 13

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## Royal finances open to public scrutiny

BY NICHOLAS WATT, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Queen's finances are to be opened to public scrutiny for the first time in a move by the Commons public spending watchdog to enhance efforts to modernise the monarchy.

Under the radical reform plan nearly £50 million of taxpayers' money that finances the Royal Household will be open for inspection by the National Audit Office, which reports to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

It means that MPs will be able to question Palace officials on their expenditure and issue critical reports if they decide that money is being spent unwisely. Government departments have been wary of the committee's stringent powers since the PAC was set up by Gladstone in 1861 when he was Chancellor.

Dawn Primarolo, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, is to discuss the plan with David Davis, the new Conservative chairman of the PAC. The Government and all the main parties appear to be in sympathy.

Mr Davis, Minister for Europe in the last government, launched the initiative within weeks of taking over

his new job. The grants that will come under scrutiny are the £8.9 million annual Civil List, which finances the working expenses of the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

The Queen receives £7.9 million a year and the Duke and the Queen Mother receive £500,000 each. Other grants are £20.4 million for the royal residences and £19.5 million for the Queen's transport. The grants will be scrutinised by

Sir John Bourn, the Comptroller and Auditor General.

A senior ministerial source said last night that the Government was committed to greater transparency in public finances. The source pointed out that the Government had recently removed the "not for NAO eyes" stipulation that barred the Audit Office from examining key areas of public finance.

Mr Davis admitted that the plan would be controversial but he said it was in the interests of the Queen for her

finances to be scrutinised. He said: "The Royal Family is making great efforts to increase transparency and openness in its affairs. Those efforts will strengthen public support for the monarchy and we can all applaud them. Our proposals go entirely with the grain of those efforts." He made clear that the Queen's own finances should remain private.

The reform comes amid a determined effort by the Palace to be more open about the Queen's finances. The grants for travel and royal residences are audited by Palace accountants who publish a report. The Palace does not publish details of the Civil List because that is a matter for the Treasury. It is understood that the Queen is making savings that will be declared.

Mr Davis' proposals have won strong support from across the political spectrum. Robert Maclean, a Liberal Democrat member of the finance committee, hailed the reforms as an important modernising step. He said: "Wherever public money goes the NAO ought to have the right to follow it."

## Rapist allowed to sue

Continued from page 1 could be tested to "convince the prison authorities he is not mad."

Ms Booth said: "He has always maintained there was no physical relationship but there was a strong affection between them which she could not acknowledge. He believes that was what led him to commit the offence and being misunderstood by the psychiatrists."

Christopher Vosper, representative of Mrs Griffiths, told the Appeal Court that Daniels's attempt to launch legal action was a "manifestation of his obsession" and he was trying to use the courts as a way of seeing her and being in the same room as her.

Sir Brian Neill, giving the lead ruling, said that unless he

can establish the true position through a libel action, he "has no prospect of correcting this misconception and therefore no realistic prospect of obtaining parole".

The judges said immunity for civil actions against complaints to the police did not extend to all the statements made by the woman when complaining about the man, only to those relating to a possible offence. While the woman's statement alleging harassment were protected under the immunity, her complaints went wider, the judges said.

Their ruling means that in future, statements made by witnesses to the police will not automatically be protected by a legal immunity.

Mrs Griffiths's solicitor,

Tim Rees, said: "This is a very fine line. It is going to be very difficult for people to help the police to know where they stand."

The Court of Appeal has sought to limit the extent of the immunity and said that there may be statements made by my client in a separate context — in this case to help the Parole Board — and that such statements are not immune."

Because Daniels won yesterday's appeal against an order that his claim was an abuse of process of the court, the three judges had to allow him his costs against Mrs Griffiths.

Mrs Griffiths's lawyer, Ann Morgan, of Douglas-Jones and Mercer in Swansea, said: "My client is devastated and bewildered."





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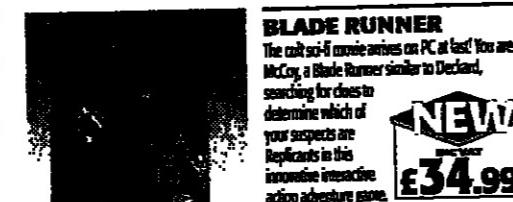
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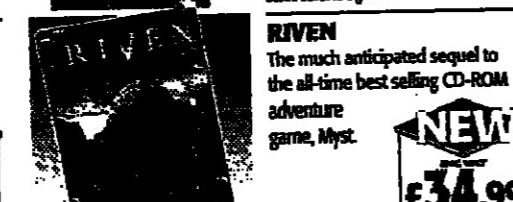
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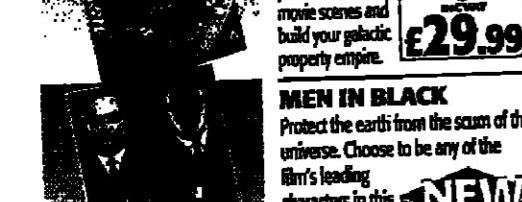
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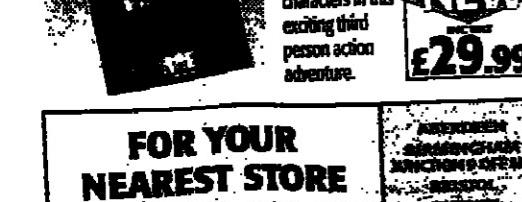
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'He didn't try to hide away at all. He was very, very open and relaxed and natural'



Among mourners at the Sydney funeral yesterday were Kylie Minogue, second from left, and Sophie Lee, an actress, second from right. Kym Wilson, right, the actress who was one of the last people to see Hutchence alive, was also present.

JEFF DARMAN



## Last acts of a rock tragedy

By ROGER MATTHEW  
IN SYDNEY

IN THE rich history of rock star tragedies, Michael Hutchence's sudden death fits a pattern that will ensure his place in the music industry's hall of fame for years to come. In an industry where premature death is a pre-requisite for heroism, he has already gained a degree of immortality.

While there are still many unanswered questions about the events surrounding the singer's final hours, police have pieced together a remarkably detailed picture of what happened before and after his tragic end.

At 6.30pm on Friday, Michael's father Kell Hutchence reserved a table at the Taste of India restaurant in Sydney for a family dinner. They arrived together at 7.45pm, eventually

dressed and smiling and took a window table. Ashley Totani, the manager, said: "Usually with these kind of people, the big stars, they like to sit with their backs to the room. He didn't. He sat looking into the restaurant. He didn't try to hide away at all. He was very, very open and relaxed and natural."

Michael did not eat much and at one stage in the evening his father appeared to show some concern. He put his hand on that of his son and remarked: "I'm very worried about you Michael. Is everything all right?" Michael replied: "Dad, I'm fine."

Kell drove his son back to the Ritz Carlton Hotel at about 11pm. At about 11.10pm Hutchence went into a bar at the hotel - which is in the exclusive Sydney harbourside suburb of Double Bay. He had a drink with some friends.

and applauded the female singer. Just before midnight, Hutchence and Kym Wilson, the Australian actress, took the lift to the rock star's fifth floor suite. She was not spotted again until she left at 4am. For the next five hours, hotel records show that Hutchence made several telephone calls from his hotel room. He is believed to have spoken to Paula Yates and Bob Geldof.

At 7am on Saturday he telephoned a friend, Michelle Bennett, and arranged to meet her for breakfast. She was asleep in bed so he left a message on her answering machine that said: "It's seven o'clock. I need to talk to you. Goodnight." Michelle arrived at the Ritz Carlton just before 10am but failed to get an answer from his room. She arranged for a note to be slid under his door and left.

At 11.55am a maid used her pass key to enter Hutchence's suite. Inside she found his body hanging from a leather belt attached to a spring door hinge.

Shortly after noon on Saturday police and ambulance officers arrived and declared Michael Hutchence dead. There were empty beer bottles, cocktail glasses and a bottle of French Champagne in the room. Police sources said the bed had been stripped back and there was evidence of sexual activity having taken place, but they could not say when.

It was some days before Kym Wilson gave a statement to police, but she told friends that Michael appeared to have been in a very positive mood and gave no indication of wanting to take his life.

A post mortem examination revealed that Hutchence had hanged himself, but there were no suspicious circumstances.



Relatives and members of Hutchence's band, INXS, bearing his coffin away

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# Hunt lobby attacks 'emotional blackmail'

Supporters of hunting gathered for a last blast of defiance before MPs cast their votes in the Commons today, reports Michael Hornsby

PRO-HUNT campaigners accused their opponents of "emotional blackmail" yesterday as they faced the prospect of a resounding defeat in today's second reading vote in the Commons on a Private Member's Bill to ban their sport.

They were resigned to a large majority in favour of the Bill, and were relying on the Government to refuse to allocate enough time for the legislation to complete its passage.

Robin Hanbury-Tenison, leader of the Countryside Alliance, the umbrella body for all field sports, said: "We have seen anti-hunt groups spending up to £5 million on

misleading advertisements in what amounts to a campaign of emotional blackmail."

Even if 73 per cent of the population supported a ban, as some polls suggested, that still left 27 per cent who did not. "That is about 15.5 million people, or about two million more than elected the Labour Party at the last election. Some minority," he said.

Baroness Mallalieu, a Labour member of the House of Lords and leader of a small group in the party opposed to a hunting ban, said she had never encountered such anger and determination among country people as had been aroused by the Bill, sponsored by Michael Foster, Labour MP for Worcester. She said: "Millions of people are saying that they do not want to live in a country which is governed by majority dictation."

About 150 country sports workers and supporters began a 24-hour vigil yesterday near the House of Commons in protest against the Wild Mammals (Hunting with Dogs) Bill, which would make hunting fox, deer, hare and mink a criminal offence subject to a maximum fine of £5,000 or imprisonment for up to six months.

Among them was Mark Allen, from Stratford-on-Avon, with his two hunting dogs. He said: "I am just a



Members of seven Leicestershire hunts and supporters gathered in protest at a Countryside Alliance rally at Melton Mowbray yesterday

labourer who earns £60 a day. Hunting is one of the most socially mixed pastimes in the whole of the country and it is outrageous that it is a socialist Government that is trying to ban hunting."

In a letter to MPs, the Countryside Alliance said

hunting was the best and most humane way of controlling

foxes. "A fox in prime condition is faster and smarter than any foxhound," it said. "The odds are in favour of the fox and most that are hunted survive. Should a fox be caught by hounds, its death is very quick and there is no risk of wounding."

Seven Leicestershire hunts — the Quorn, Cotesmore,

Belvoir, Fernie and Atherton foxhounds, the Westerby Bassets and the Oakley Foot Beagles — staged a parade on Melton Mowbray aerodrome yesterday in protest against the Bill. The organisers claimed that 4,000 people on foot and 800 horses and riders took part.

Vini Faal, chairman of the

Sharston Terrier and Lurcher Club, told the gathering: "Last week I met an Welsh ex-miner who follows hounds. He said to me: 'I never thought I would be arguing with a Labour MP. The Tories took away my living, now the Labour Party want to take away my life.'

Jim Barrington, a former

executive director of the League Against Cruel Sports, said: "A hunting ban will not improve the welfare of a single fox. I would like to see an independent authority set up to supervise and regulate the sport."

Leading article, and Letters, page 23

Ease your hell, girl's father tells murderer

THE parents of the murdered schoolgirl Kate Bushell yesterday appealed to her killer to give himself up to relieve his "private hell".

Jeremy Bushell, 44, who found his daughter's body in a field near their home, said: "There is a very, very sick person there who is basically living in hell, and his private hell can only be relieved by coming forward."

His daughter, 14, had her throat cut while walking a neighbour's dog in Exeter. Suzanne Bushell said: "She's always going to be with us. We had 14 lovely years with her."

Asked whether he had heard rumours that the lane the girl used was unsafe, Mr Bushell said: "We had not heard anything specific. You cannot live your life in a cocoon. You have got to live it in the world where you are."

Police have received 1,700 calls from the public but have not found the murder knife.

## CORRECTIONS

A heading on a report (November 24) did not reflect the views of Martin Kemp, British Academy Wolfson Research Professor. He has called for a debate on the restoration of works of art, not a halt to that work.

Scottish Telecom has concluded a joint venture agreement with Martin Dawes Telecommunications Ltd. It has not bought that company, as reported on November 17.

## Europe may catch cold from global warming

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR, AND NICK NUTTALL

EUROPE should prepare for temperatures to fall to Arctic levels, even though meteorologists have declared 1997 the Earth's hottest year on record, an American scientist says.

Wallace Broecker, of Columbia University in New York, says the effect of global warming on the North Atlantic could disrupt the "motor" that drives ocean circulation. If so, the Gulf Stream would be turned off and winter temperatures in northern Europe would fall by at least 10°C within a decade. Britain would be as cold as Spitsbergen, 600 miles inside the Arctic Circle.

Meteorological Office figures show that this year will be 0.43°C warmer than the 30-year average.

Ocean currents, including the Gulf Stream, are driven by a process called the thermohaline circulation. The cold, salty

water of the North Atlantic is the driving force, sinking to the ocean bottom and pushing water through the world's oceans like a huge plunger. The result, as far as northern Europe is concerned, is a huge flow of warmer surface waters, including the Gulf Stream, across the Atlantic. Northern Europe is consequently much warmer than

corresponding latitudes in North America.

The water of the North Atlantic has about 7 per cent more salt than that of the North Pacific, just sufficient to make it sink. If it were warmed by a few degrees, or made less salty by being diluted by melting ice, that could change.

If it did, Dr Broecker writes

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# Gay prisoners underwent sexual 'cure'

GAY prisoners in the 1950s were given electric shock treatment and oestrogen — a female sex hormone — in an attempt to make them heterosexual.

The effort to alter homosexuality in prison was revealed yesterday in Home Office papers released at the Public Record Office under the 30-year rule. Medical officers tried a number of experiments "to influence homosexual behaviour" and "to abolish the sexual urge".

Some prisoners asked for castration, and in some cases surgery was approved, but the prison officials preferred a combination of therapy and oestrogen. Their view was "castration of body does not mean castration of mind".

Forty-three men were given electric shock treatment or aversion therapy. Pictures of a man were flashed on a screen and, if they did not switch it off within eight seconds, they received a shock. Only 36 completed the treatment; the papers said 25 showed "significant improvement".

In an unsigned memoran-

**Newly released Home Office papers show inmates were given oestrogen and electric shocks in an attempt to convert them. Valerie Elliott reports**

dum to Rab Butler, then Home Secretary, officials recognised, however, that the treatment was flawed because the majority of gay prisoners — or "inverts", as they were termed — refused treatment and others were serving sentences too short to take any benefit from it.

Butler approved the use of oestrogen in 1958 among prisoners who gave written consent, although it was not regarded as a permanent "cure". It had been forbidden previously because of the risk of making men sterile.

According to the advice "the effect of administration of oestrogen to males is to diminish the effect of the sexual urge, whether its direction is normal or abnormal ... but

"it does not effect a permanent cure".

The Prison Service found that in half those treated the men "were less likely in the future to indulge in homosexual behaviour". But of the 1,065 cases studied, 81 per cent refused treatment and 13 per cent were unsuitable.

The Prison Service admitted that it did not like segregating gay prisoners and accepted that some prison officers were strongly repelled by homosexual inmates and made no effort to conceal their feelings. Prison staff categorised types of homosexual — the male prostitute, the corrupter of youth, the obviously effeminate, the obnoxious and the homosexual "who tries to parade a fancied intellectual superiority to the common herd".

The "passive homo" was regarded as a great nuisance while the male prostitute was "no trouble". It is the temperamentally female type who is the canker," the paper stated. Some prisons enlisted chaplains to influence behaviour of the gays but the report complained that many were prone to "fascile religiosity".

The papers formed part of the debate in government about reforms proposed by John Wolfenden (later Lord Wolfenden) in a Royal Commission report in 1957, to legalise sex between consenting men aged over 21. However, it was not until 1967, when Roy Jenkins was Home Secretary, that the Sexual Offences Act was passed.

Rab Butler was clearly uncomfortable with the proposed reforms. He wrote to Cabinet colleagues in 1957 that the Wolfenden report "seems to avoid the moral issues".

In 1966, as the legislation was being prepared, Harold Wilson, then Prime Minister, was urged by the National Union of Seamen to maintain a ban on gay sex at sea. Bill Hogarth, the union's general secretary, said he feared parents would not allow their sons to go to sea. "The presence of homosexuals can give rise to serious conflicts and jealousies."

Wilson promised to try to find a way around the law for the seamen.



Lord Alfred Douglas, who wanted to raise money by selling a manuscript

**Minister rejected MPs' plea to help Douglas**

THE Home Office refused to help a destitute and sick Lord Alfred Douglas, the former lover of Oscar Wilde, by releasing his prison manuscript of the poem *In Excelsis*.

Douglas (1870-1945) had been sentenced to six months' imprisonment in 1921 for a libel against Winston Churchill, suggesting that he had been corrupted by a Jewish financier. He was allowed to continue to write his poetry in prison but, on release, he was refused his notebook.

Douglas hoped to raise money by selling the manuscript to an American collector. The Home Office view was that he had partly repeated the libel in the sonnet which begins "The leprosy spawn of scattered Israel spread its contagion in your English blood..."

A powerful group of MPs lobbied the Government to release the notebook and make a special case for such an eminent poet. But in 1942, Sir Alexander Maxwell, then Home Secretary, firmly rejected the pleadings for Douglas, then 72, from Harold Nicolson, Alan Lennox-Boyd, Henry "Chips" Channon.

Osbert Peake, a junior Home Office Minister, advised Sir Alexander: "If Douglas is now in penury his friends should do something for him." Peake was also concerned that release of the notebook would revive stories of Wilde and Douglas.

The Home Secretary agreed and made clear that he would also be criticised for favouring "people of eminence". The MPs were outraged.

## PM freed suffragette who plotted to kill him



Lloyd George: he was target of poison plot

— who won Wheeldon's friendship — claimed that she told him he would be a "saviour to his country" by poisoning the Prime Minister, the papers said. She told him that, a couple of years earlier, she had known about a plot to kill Lloyd George, but he had escaped by going to France.

The investigator, known as Number Five, said she had four small test tubes of chemicals delivered so that he could carry out the plot. The reports concluded that there was "ample evidence" that she and others were behind the plot.

After she was jailed her family complained about her treatment, which included her being stripped. She went on hunger strike because she could not face ten years in prison.

Wheeldon died in 1919. Her son, William, covered her coffin with the red flag, according to news reports of the time.

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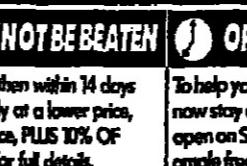
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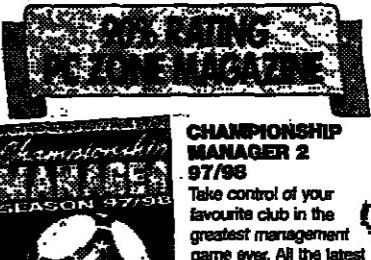
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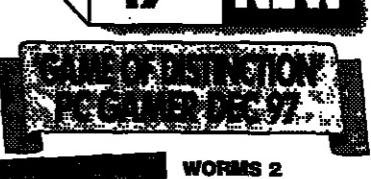
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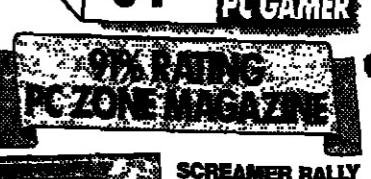
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# Chocolate and chips 'are good for children'

Doctor says diet obsession gives girls anorexia, and a bit of energy would do them good, writes John O'Leary

**AN OBSESSION** with healthy eating, exercise and vegetarianism is fueling the growth of anorexia and bulimia among teenage girls, the director of a specialist clinic told headmistresses yesterday.

Dr Dawson, medical director of the Rhodes Farm Clinic in North London, which treats children with eating disorders, said that chips, chocolate and crisps were all sources of energy which parents and schools should welcome. Left to choose their own food, children would arrive at a naturally healthy diet.

The promotion of low-fat diets was dangerous to potentially anorexic children. "Children do not need to restrict their fat intake — they should drink full-fat milk, they can happily eat butter; there is not one shred of evidence to suggest that what we eat as children has any influence on the later incidence of coronary heart disease. Chocolate, cheese, crisps and chips are wonderful energy-giving foods which children need."

She believed it no coincidence that 80 per cent of her patients were vegetarian. "Children should not depend on beans and nuts for their protein. They need to eat meat." Exercise videos were also damaging: "I would like to shoot Rosemary Conley... no amount of waving your legs in the air will reduce the amount of fat on your thighs other than its effect in burning nervous energy."

"Having said that, anorexia nervosa is moving rapidly

down through the social classes and is certainly not confined to prestigious schools," she said. She blamed low-fat diets, modern exercise regimes and the trend towards vegetarianism for many eating disorders.

She said that thin models had such an impact that half of all six-year-olds were worried about their weight. Only about 4 per cent of schoolchildren were truly overweight. Girls had to be told that it was natural to gain weight around puberty, and any weight loss should be recognised as a cause for concern.

Dr Dawson said she feared that the Government would compound the problem by issuing healthy eating guidelines. She claimed that a leaked policy document from the Department of Health considered banning school tuck shops, chips in school canteens and restricting the sale of chocolate. She said: "Until there is evidence to the contrary, the old adage still holds true: 'A little of what you fancy does you good.'"



Dr Dawson speaking yesterday. She said schools should weigh pupils regularly

## The answer is to strike a balance

### MEDICAL BRIEFING

FEW doctors would agree with Dee Dawson in her contention that dietary fat in childhood has no influence on later health.

The evidence from post-mortem examinations on young American servicemen killed in the Korean War showed that, by the early 1950s, the postwar diet, which is unduly reliant upon convenience foods with a high fat content, had increased the amount of atherosclerosis in the coronary arteries and aorta. This evidence of cardiovascular disease showed to greater extent than before.

There is an implied suggestion in Dr Dawson's remarks that keeping the calorie intake derived from fat low might encourage the children to take less than 10 per cent of the daily energy requirement in fat. Ten per cent is the absolute minimum which is essential

for the absorption of fat-soluble vitamins, healthy cell production and for lubrication to enhance food flavour and to make it easy to swallow.

Anything which gives over-emphasis to the body beautiful, including excessive exercise, can be destructive. Adults who are obsessed about their children's appearance and performance, both physical and mental, are likely also to be interfering, over-intrusive and incapable of allowing their children to develop their independence.

Excessive anxiety about fat is likely to be symptomatic of other, greater, problems in parenthood which will not be eased by encouraging a diet rich in cheese, chips and double cream.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

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# An outspoken debunker of eating myths

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

WHEN Dee Dawson gave up her job as a hospital doctor to have her fifth child, she decided to take two or three anorexic children into her home. Within months, the demand for treatment was such that she had to extend her house and eventually move her family out.

Today, her Rhodes Farm clinic in North London, has 32 beds and is treating anorexic children from all over Britain and further afield.

Dr Dawson is also acting as a consultant to several schools and spreading her message of the damage done by food fads.

She gained a degree in biochemistry in the 1970s and spent three years researching heart disease before working in Madagascar as a volunteer. She took an MBA at the London Business School and three years later started a fashion company specialising in larger sizes.

By 1982, she had sold the business to the Burton Group

and took a degree in medicine, qualifying in 1989. She practised as a part-time GP when she first began specialising in the treatment of eating disorders, but the growth of her clinic soon made this impractical. In recent years, she has become one of the most outspoken critics of the vogue for exercise and supposedly healthy eating.

She told headmistresses yesterday how her six-year-old daughter once brought a note home from her prep school asking parents not to include chocolate biscuits or crisps in lunchboxes because they were "envy-making foods".

Another note prescribed early bedtimes because children were tired in the afternoon. She said: "Could it be that they were eating celery sticks and carrots instead of a Mars bar, which could indeed have helped them work, rest and play?"

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# Welsh assembly may spend years in makeshift home

**Polly Newton on the failure to secure a deal for the use of Cardiff City Hall**

THE new Welsh assembly may have to find a temporary home after the collapse of negotiations over the use of Cardiff City Hall, the Welsh Secretary said yesterday.

Ron Davies suggested that members and staff could find themselves without a permanent home for three or four years after the assembly is set up in May 1999.

The Government offered Cardiff City Council a maximum of £3.5 million to lease City Hall, which was the Welsh Secretary's first choice of location for the assembly. The council's ruling Labour group rejected the offer unanimously, despite the Government's protests that it would have to spend a further £30 million on renovating and refurbishing the building.

Although Mr Davies regretted that the City Hall would not house the Welsh assembly, he said: "It was the preferred option, but not the only option."

The alternatives will be set out in a consultation document to be published in the next ten days. In the short term, they include the old Mid Glamorgan county council hall in Cardiff and the Coal Exchange in Cardiff Bay, which was identified as a possible assembly headquar-

ters in the run-up to the 1979 referendum on Welsh devolution. Both would have to be modified to accommodate the assembly while a long-term home was found — perhaps a new building in Cardiff.

Mr Davies said that he still favoured Cardiff because it was the Welsh capital, but there were other possibilities. Wherever the assembly is sited, it could be connected by video links with "satellite" offices in other cities and towns.

The Government of Wales Bill, which was published yesterday, sets aside £17 million for the establishment of the assembly. Mr Davies said he was confident that it would be enough.

He said that the Bill was a milestone for Wales. "In only 18 months, and for the first time ever, there will be an all-Wales elected government."



The Coal Exchange, top left, and the Mid Glamorgan county hall are alternatives to the first choice City Hall, below

per cent. Peter Hain, the junior Welsh Office Minister, will co-ordinate a campaign to win over those who voted against.

He said yesterday: "I predict that in ten years' time, you will not be able to identify anybody who would admit to voting 'no' in the referendum,

because it will become such a hugely popular assembly."

The Government for Wales Bill is expected to have its second reading in the Commons in the week beginning December 8. Mr Davies risked the wrath of the Opposition by saying that it was unlikely to be debated in full

on the floor of the House, despite the convention that all MPs are given the chance to scrutinise in detail any legislation with constitutional implications.

Mr Davies said it was "very important" that the key debates were taken on the floor of the House, but said that

would depend on the Conservative Party. "If they are prepared to be co-operative with us I will ensure that the key issues are taken on the floor of the House," he said, but added: "There is a very strong case for much of the detail of the Bill to be taken in committee upstairs."

## Charges for river pollution planned

BY NICK NUTTALL

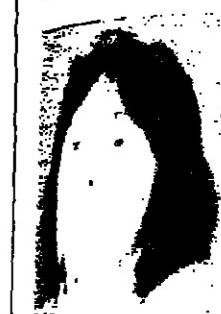
COMPANIES discharging poisonous wastes face higher charges under government-backed proposals announced yesterday to improve river quality.

Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, said the health of the nation's rivers had improved markedly between 1990 and 1996. But there were still stretches in England and Wales where pollution made the water unsuitable for recreation or providing drinking supplies.

Under the proposals, factories that discharge into rivers will pay a sliding scale of charges intended to reflect the environmental impact of the wastes. The more toxic and hazardous the discharge, the higher the charge.

"Polluters then have a choice between paying that price or taking action to reduce their pollution. The economic instrument should provide an ongoing incentive for the development of new, more cost-effective, pollution control techniques," a report into the proposals said.

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## Sleaze claims fail to harm Labour

BY PETER RIDDLE

THE Blair Government's "squeaky-clean" image has been unaffected by the row over the Bernie Ecclestone affair. The latest MORI poll for *The Times* shows that more than half the public believes that it has upheld high standards in public life since the election.

The poll undertaken last weekend included a number of questions about the public's attitude towards the Government. Hopes are still high: and, despite allegations about Labour "sleaze", the public thinks that the Government has upheld high standards in public life by almost a two-to-one margin.

Moreover, 53 per cent think that the Labour Government is doing about the same as they expected, while 20 per cent believe it is doing better than expected and 16 per cent worse. The middle classes are slightly more positive than the working classes.

There is a broadly even split over whether the Government has kept its promises. 45 per cent believing it has and 41 per cent has not.

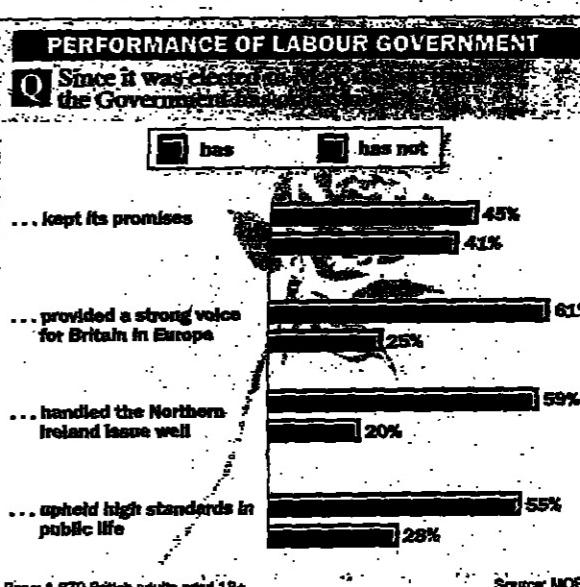
Revealingly, the highest proportion, 24 per cent, saying that the Government has done better than expected come from Scotland, and the lowest, at 15 per cent, from Wales.

Similarly, a much higher proportion in Scotland than Wales (55 to 48 per cent) believe that the Government has kept its promises. This undoubtedly reflects the contrasting attitudes on devolution.

Three quarters say their standard of living has stayed about the same since May, with just 7 per cent saying it has improved and 17 per cent got worse. Complaints about a decline in living standards are well above average, at 23 per cent among those buying their homes on mortgages who have faced a series of interest rate increases since May. This is also reflected in the 22 per cent of 35 to 54-year-olds reporting worse living standards. By contrast, the figure is just 11 per cent among those who own their homes outright. Those aged between 35 and 54 and those buying homes on a mortgage are also less inclined to think that the Government has kept its promises.

Nonetheless, 56 per cent agree that, in the long term, this Government's policies will improve the state of Britain's economy, with 27 per cent disagreeing. This is roughly the same balance as after Gordon Brown's first Budget in July.

The MORI economic op-



mism index, measuring the proportion believing that the general economic condition of the country will improve rather than get worse over the next 12 months, is still positive, at plus six points, roughly the same as at the end of October.

The unemployed are not surprisingly, more likely than others to say their standard of living has got worse and that the Government has not kept its promises since the election. However, they remain optimistic about the future since the election.

Three fifths of the public, including two fifths of Tory supporters, believe the Government has provided a strong voice in Europe, with just 25 per cent disagreeing.

MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,879 adults at 110 sampling points across Britain from November 21 to 24.

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| Cambridgeshire         | 64,000                           |
| Cheshire               | 14,000                           |
| Cleveland              | 45,000                           |
| Cornwall               | 50,000                           |
| Cumbria                | 65,000                           |
| Derbyshire             | 99,000                           |
| Devon                  | 63,000                           |
| Dorset                 | 21,000                           |
| Durham                 | 36,450                           |
| East Riding & Hull     | 35,000                           |
| East Sussex            | 260,000                          |
| Gloucestershire        | 94,000                           |
| Greater London         | 92,000                           |
| Greater Manchester     | 56,000                           |
| Hampshire              | 50,800                           |
| Hereford & Worcs       | 8,000                            |
| Hertfordshire          | 87,000                           |
| Isle of Wight          | 100,700                          |
| Kent                   | 44,000                           |
| Lancashire             | 66,000                           |
| Leicestershire         | 36,000                           |
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| Northumberland         | 25,000                           |
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| Nottinghamshire        | 37,000                           |
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| Shropshire             | 50,000                           |
| Somerset               | 51,000                           |
| South Yorks            | 66,000                           |
| Staffordshire          | 36,000                           |
| Surrey                 | 62,000                           |
| Suffolk                | 35,700                           |
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# Likud politician calls for Palestinian state

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

A LEADING member of Benjamin Netanyahu's ruling Likud party yesterday backed the creation of a limited Palestinian state in a new challenge to the policy of the embattled right-wing Israeli Prime Minister.

The move, by Meir Sheerit, Likud's chief whip, came as Mr Netanyahu faced criticism from all sides over his handling of the faltering peace process and was threatened with a right-wing Knesset revolt to topple his coalition.

Yesterday, crude posters depicting him in an Arab keffiyeh headress under the slogan "The Liar" were distributed in Jerusalem by extreme right-wing Jews furious that he plans to hand back more West Bank land to Palestinians.

Underlining the severity of his dilemma, the *Yediot Aharonot* daily reported him as saying: "The Americans are treating me like Saddam Hussein," because of repeated snubs by President Clinton.

## Swiss prepared to defend war policy at Nazi gold debate

BY MICHAEL BINYON AND PETER CAPELLA

SWITZERLAND has prepared a robust defence of its wartime record to forestall any attempt to pillory its dealings with Nazi Germany at next week's conference in London on Nazi gold.

Thomas Borer, a diplomat heading the task force on Swiss banking and financial affairs during the war, will tell delegates from the 42 countries attending the Lancaster House meeting that Switzerland had to buy gold from Germany because in 1941 the allies had frozen the bulk of the Swiss National Bank's reserves deposited in America for security before the war.

He argues that only gold obtained from Germany was freely tradeable and was needed for vital transactions. All imports from Romania, Hungary, Portugal and Turkey had to be paid for in gold.

Mr Borer refutes the common view that the Swiss National Bank traded mainly with Germany. It bought \$8.2 billion of German gold, but far more from the allies, and during the war dealt with the central banks of 16 countries.

His delegation will be one of about 30 countries presenting historical papers at the

two-day conference. British officials have given a warning that if delegates start trading accusations, the attempt to unearth new archives could be frustrated.

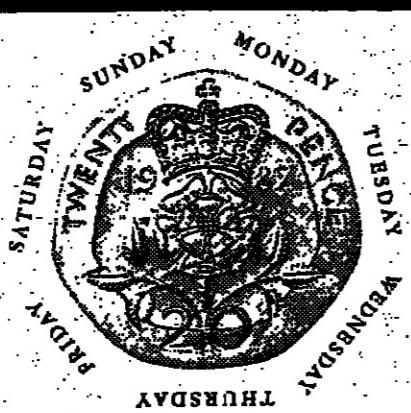
Britain, France and America, which still hold 5.5 tonnes of gold not yet distributed by the Tripartite Gold Commission, want the ten claimant countries to endorse their proposal to turn it over to a fund for victims of the Nazis.

In Switzerland, relatives of Holocaust survivors have alleged that Britain applied laws on confiscated enemy property in a selective manner. They say that the assets of Eastern European nobility were returned while claims from survivors were rejected.

The families of Peter Coanga, John Leopold and Reuven Tal have tried for decades to recover money that was left with banks in London by their Hungarian and Romanian Jewish relatives before the war.

Mr Leopold said that, in contrast, documents in the Public Record Office show that Britain found ways to return the assets of some of Eastern Europe's richest and influential families, for example former King Carol II of Romania.

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## Czechs lectured by Cook on gypsy 'asylum'

FROM CHARLES BRENNER  
IN PRAGUE

ROBIN COOK, the Foreign Secretary, used a visit to Prague yesterday to hammer home warnings to Central Europe's gypsies to desist from seeking asylum in Britain and to the Czech Government to improve the lot of its 300,000 Roma population.

Mr Cook made three strong and almost identically worded statements on the autumn's rush of gypsies to Dover after meetings with President Havel and the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. "It is very important that Britain gets across the message that it is not a soft touch for anyone claiming asylum falsely," he said. "I give a very clear message to those who are contemplating travelling to Britain that Britain does not have an open door policy to those who may allege persecution and cannot then prove it."

Czech society needed to address the question of "why so many of its people saw no future for themselves within the Czech Lands", he added. Mr Cook acknowledged that "the flood appears to have dried up". Only six new arrivals had been reported this month.

The Foreign Secretary's open criticism jarred with the message of goodwill that he brought to Prague from a Britain that he said, "is firmly committed to throwing open the doors of the European Union to the new democracies in the East". Once inside the EU, the Czech people will be able to move freely throughout it.

Prague has announced a string of measures to give full citizenship and more secure lives to gypsies, and it has offered to pay about £18,000 to bring home those in Britain.



James Earl Ray, who could die within six months of liver failure, confessed to killing Martin Luther King in 1968, but then changed his story

# James Earl Ray must pay \$250,000 to stay alive

**Martin Luther King's killer is pleading for a liver transplant, reports Tunku Varadarajan**

JAMES EARL RAY, the man convicted of killing Martin Luther King Jr, the black civil rights leader, needs at least \$250,000 (£147,000) to pay for a life-saving liver transplant. Doctors say that Ray, 69, who suffers from cirrhosis of the liver caused by a chronic hepatitis C infection he contracted in prison, could die within six months if he does not receive the transplant. So far, he has been unable to raise any money.

The \$250,000 would secure a place on a waiting list for transplants at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Centre. He is serving a 99-year sentence at a jail in Nashville, Tennessee, but the state's medical insurance scheme makes no provision for transplants. No exception is made even for prisoners who contract infec-

tious diseases in prison. Since he is not insured for the operation he needs, the hospital has demanded that Ray post the sum as a bond: without that, it will not consider him for an operation.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, the hospital said: "Mr Ray cannot be placed on the national waiting list until certain financial obligations are met. Since the Tennessee Department of Corrections will not pay for Mr Ray's transplant, he will be required to pay a deposit before he can be listed for transplantation.

The hospital did not address the point, raised by Ray's lawyers, that the patient — an imprisoned man — did not

have the same opportunities to raise insurance money as might a transplant candidate at liberty. In America, medical insurance is usually tied to an employment contract; Ray, as a prison inmate, could not secure such a contract.

The money required as deposit is not the only obstacle in the path of Ray's transplant. In order to travel to Pittsburgh, he must first secure a "medical furlough" from the prison authorities in Nashville. He has already been rejected once this year when he sought permission to go to Pittsburgh for medical tests.

Ray's latest application for leave of absence must be approved by a daunting number of officials, including the Memphis district attorney, the prison doctors and, finally, the state prisons commis-

sioner. Pam Hoggins, a spokeswoman for the Department of Corrections, said that medical furloughs were rarely approved. "A candidate has to be near death," she said.

The Rev James Lawson, a Methodist minister who was with King at the time of his assassination, is now attempting to raise money for Ray's transplant. Yesterday, he revealed that he had raised scarcely a cent. The King family, which has not contributed money, nonetheless supports Ray's "right" to an operation.

Ray, who confessed to murdering King in Memphis in 1968, recanted just two weeks after his conviction. Ever since, he has fought doggedly for a new trial. Recently, he secured the support of King's own son.

## Japanese broker's suicide

Osaka: An employee of a company linked to Yamaichi Securities, the failed Japanese broker, killed himself by jumping from a building in Osaka's financial district. Police said Seiichi Tanigashira, 40, a deputy section chief at Taiheyo Securities, jumped from the roof of a seven-floor building near Taiheyo's office. No suicide note has been found. Yamaichi owns 40 per cent of Taiheyo. (Reuters)

## Mexico seizes immigrants

Mexico City: Police in the central Mexican state of Puebla found 75 illegal immigrants, mostly from Central America, who had been hidden inside an empty petrol tanker heading for the US border for four days without food or water. Most of the migrants, who included Chinese nationals, were treated for severe dehydration. (Reuters)

## 'Seducer' on trial in Iran

Tehran: A foreigner in Iran is to stand trial for allegedly seducing around 40 young women, a newspaper reported. The suspect, whose identity and nationality were not disclosed, presented himself as a diplomat and "collaborated" with staff at an unnamed Western embassy, it said. (AFP)

# Academics pick over white trash

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN  
IN NEW YORK

A NEW discipline, White Studies, is being introduced at American universities, taking its place alongside such areas as Black Studies, Women's Studies and Gay Theory.

The new field, establishing itself in departments of anthropology, sociology and history, focuses on such esoteric areas as the history of "blackface", the "deconstruction of white trash" and the psychology of white militias.

In an intriguing essay devoted to the phenomenon, to be published on Sunday in *The New York Times Magazine*, Margaret Talbot suggests that the aim of the course is to give whites "the same kind of critical ... scrutiny that self-defined

marginalised groups have long trained on themselves".

The new discipline is gaining ground in such institutions as Macalester College in St Paul, Duke University, Northwestern University in Chicago, and even at Berkeley. In the past year, "whiteness" scholars have published such texts as *Critical White Studies*, a textbook; *Displacing Whiteness*, a psychoanalytical study of white identity; *How the Irish Became White*, examining the labour competition between Irish immigrants and freed black slaves; and *Making Whiteness*, a study of how whites in the South "remake" the idea of racial superiority after the Civil War.

The tenor of this scholarship, and of White Studies in general, is far from triumphalist or racist. On the contrary, it is being sold by its practitioners as an audacious attempt to resolve America's racial conflicts. According to Ms Talbot, "the whole enterprise gives whites a kind of standing in the multiracial paradigm they have never before enjoyed".

The aim of many of the proponents of White Studies is to dislodge the well-established view in America that whites are "the norm", and that they transcend the identity debate which rages in America. According to Annalee Newitz, a Berkley scholar who co-edited *White Trash* (an anthology of studies of "poor white folk"), "whites are said to consider themselves a neutral universal category, hence non-racial and superior to 'racialised' others ... their self-image as whites is thus both underdeveloped and yet extremely presumptuous".

## Mugabe's seizure of farms gets under way

FROM JAN RAATH  
IN HARARE

THE Zimbabwean Government is today due to take the first steps towards mass expropriation of more than 12 million hectares of white-owned farmland as the controversy takes on increasingly racial tones.

A proclamation is due to be issued, naming up to 1,800 farms for "compulsory acquisition" for redistribution among blacks, a process which President Mugabe has said must be completed by the end of the year.

He has also ordered the government printer to ensure that the list of farms is issued on time, to enable him to present it as a fait accompli at the annual conference of his Zanu (PF) party next week.

A meeting on Wednesday between Mr Mugabe and Nick Swanepoel, president of the Commercial Farmers Union (CFU), most of whose 4,500 members are whites, failed to achieve any concessions. Mr Mugabe wants to return to blacks the land "stolen" by successive British and Rhodesian administrations after the settlement of the country a century ago.

The CFU has been given a list of the farms, but the 4,500 members have been warned not to make it public until it has been formally gazetted.

■ Veterans' tax: The Government presented plans to parliament in Harare for a new tax to pay back impoverished veterans of the independence war. The Bill is expected to be rushed through. (AFP)

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Rotary International, a sign

THE TIMES FRIDAY NOVEMBER 28 1997

OVERSEAS NEWS 17

# India mobilises for all-out war against polio

Christopher  
Thomas reports  
on the biggest  
immunisation  
plan in history

INDIA is mobilising its armed forces, two million health workers and millions of youth volunteers in a spectacular push against poliomyelitis. It will be the single biggest immunisation programme in history, reaching at least 125 million children.

The decline in polio in the sub-continent over the past few years has been stunning: in Sri Lanka, it may already have been beaten. Pakistan and India should be largely clear of the virus in three years; when it is hoped that polio will have been all but wiped out worldwide. It will thereafter join smallpox as a defeated disease.

A country without a single polio case for three years is entitled to be declared free of the disease, and India hopes to be certified as polio-free by the World Health Organisation (WHO) by 2005. On one day next month, and again in January for the requisite second dose, volunteers will administer vaccines to at least 97 per cent of children under the age of five.

The logistics are staggering. Vaccines will be delivered to 650,000 booths, located so that most people will be within walking distance of one. The army and paramilitary forces will provide transport. Two million health workers have been hired by the Government and the WHO.

Rotary International, a sign

## Army mediates in Pakistan crisis

FROM ZAHID HUSSEIN IN ISLAMABAD

THE Pakistani Army, which has ruled the country for half its existence, now finds itself in a difficult role of mediator in a confrontation between the President, the Prime Minister and the Chief Justice.

With the country drifting towards anarchy, the reluctant generals may be forced to act in an effort to salvage the country's faltering democracy.

General Jahangir Karamat, the Chief of Staff, who cut short an official visit to Britain last week, met the warring political leaders but failed to break the stalemate that has paralysed the country for the past eight weeks.

The situation took an ugly turn yesterday when members of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League heckled Sajid Eli Shah, the Chief Justice, during a court hearing, demanding that he step down. Hundreds of others demonstrated their

it has been virtually eradicated in China, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Africa remains a problem area. In India, it is down 78 per cent from two years ago.

The mass immunisation will involve the distribution of 380 million doses of oral vaccine, all of which must be kept cool. Teachers and schoolchildren, and millions of members of the Nehru Youth Organisation, which is one of the world's biggest grassroots bodies, will join Scouts, Guides and cadets in spreading the word.

Around the world it is estimated that 10-20 million people live with polio paralysis. The number of reported cases so far this year in India is around 700, although many cases go unreported.

□ Afghan blight: Despite a vaccination programme, polio cripples more Afghans than landmines, according to Belgian researchers. (Reuters)



A face begins to emerge from fragments of the damaged Assisi frescoes

## Stricken basilica in Assisi to reopen

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ASSISI

NINE weeks after the earthquake that destroyed irreplaceable works of art in Assisi, part of the great Basilica of St Francis is to reopen this weekend.

Father Nicola Giandomenico, the bursar and the friars' spokesman, said the badly damaged Upper Church would stay closed for repairs, but the Lower Church would open its doors to the public. He also announced that state television would broadcast a Christmas Eve concert from Assisi, conducted by Claudio Abbado, as an "act of faith in the basilica's future", followed by Midnight Mass celebrated by the Pope in St Peter's, Rome.

The reopening comes amid an increasingly heated debate over the fate of badly damaged medieval and Renaissance frescoes. Antonio Paolucci, the former Culture Minister in overall charge of the restoration, caused a furore by suggesting that the frescoes should be recreated or reconstructed by restorers using modern materials to "fill in the gaps" between recovered fragments.

Signor Paolucci said the frescoes by Cimabue, Giotto and other 13th-century masters in the Lower Church were "relatively intact, though dusty", and the building had been reinforced to make it structurally sound and safe for visitors. In the Upper Church, however, jagged

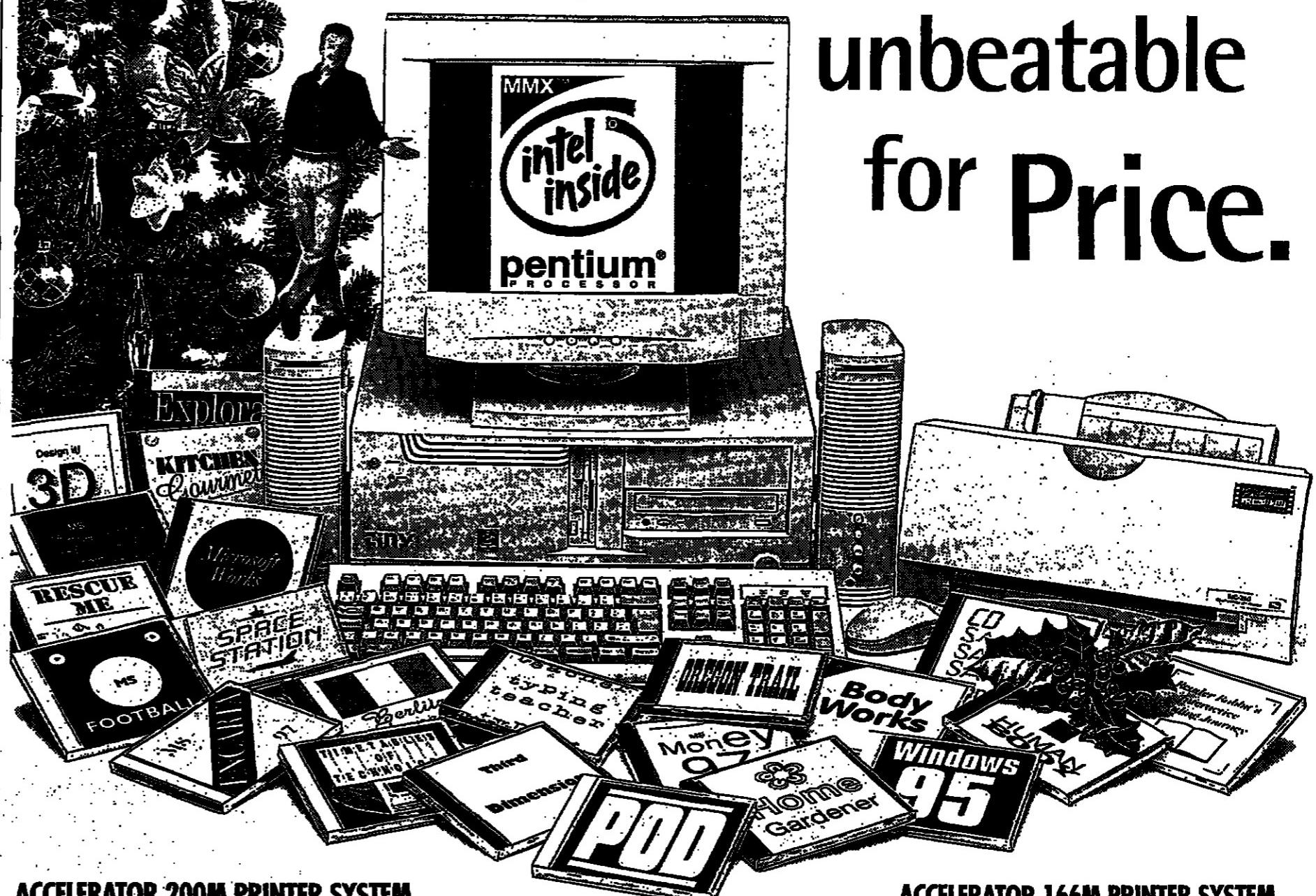
holes still gap in the great vaulted ceiling where the majestic figures of Cimabue's *The Acts of the Apostles* and Giotto's *The Doctors of the Church* once gazed down at visitors. Eighty square yards of damaged frescoes have been swept up, forming what *La Repubblica* called "the biggest jigsaw puzzle in history".

Some faces are beginning to emerge from the rubble at the hands of Paola Passalacqua, the chief technical restorer, starring with St Rufino, the 3rd-century bishop of Assisi. He is one of 16 figures — including St Francis and St Clare — that before the collapse decorated the soaring painted arch which adjoined and supported the *Doctors of the Church* frescoes. Like the *Doctors*, the figures on the arch are attributed to the young Giotto.

However, veteran experts such as Leonetto Tintori, who restored frescoes damaged by Allied bombs in Pisa and Prato after the Second World War, argue passionately that it is a tragic mistake to paint in missing sections since "respect for the work of the original artist" must be the guiding principle.

Signor Paolucci insists that the frescoes at Assisi were designed as "a harmonious artistic whole", and to leave "lots of white gaps" would "offend the eye. They would stick out like a sore thumb."

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# ANC witnesses quail in face of Mrs Mandela



Winnie Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu during a break in evidence yesterday

## Police arrest tenth of the force

FROM AGENCIE FRANCE-PRESSE  
IN JOHANNESBURG

MORE than 10,000 South African police — almost a tenth of the force — were arrested in the 15 months from January 1996 to May 1997 for alleged crimes ranging from armed robbery and theft to rape and corruption.

Sydney Mufamadi, the Safety and Security Minister, has told parliament that the 10,313 officers were linked to crimes including 107 armed robberies, 653 thefts, 193

corruption cases, illegal possession of firearms, rape, reckless driving and murder. Of those held, 412 have so far been convicted.

In the most recent incident, Inspector Thembinkosi Ntando, 31, was apprehended for robbing a post office. Charges included robbery, illegal possession of a firearm and car theft. He fled before trial and is still at large.

Joseph Ngobeni, a police spokesman, said the reasons police turned to crime "can be attributed to a lack of self-discipline and a

lack of loyalty and pride in the South African police services".

The problem had been exacerbated by the amalgamation of apartheid's 11 policing agencies and 11 different disciplinary codes — under one democratic policing umbrella, in 1995.

However, he maintained that the problem was being addressed, and that "one uniform single code of conduct was implemented last month to prevent confusion, which we hope will assist towards our goals".

LEADING members of the African National Congress feared Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and her bodyguards and failed to end her reign of terror in Soweto. Archbishop Desmond Tutu's Truth and Reconciliation Commission heard yesterday.

Senior ANC officials who testified yesterday said they had struggled for weeks to secure the release of four township youths allegedly abducted and tortured by Mrs Mandela and her "Mandela United Football Club" bodyguard in 1988 and 1989. However, none was willing to say she held them against their will.

They also declined to explain why they did not ask to see the youths, whom Soweto residents and Bishop Peter Storey, then head of the Methodist Church in Johannesburg, believed were being tortured.

The ANC veterans were members of a group known as the Mandela Crisis Committee, set up to try to restrain the football club. They told the commission that they had tried cautiously to investigate reports that Stompie Moeketsi Seipei, a teenage activist, had been assaulted and possibly killed at Mrs Mandela's home. They visited her to plead for the release of Stompie and other activists.

The ANC leaders testified that they were frustrated by her behaviour, and produced documents sent to Oliver Tambo, then president of the party, and to Nelson Mandela, which said she should be isolated and the football club disbanded.

But faced with Mrs Mandela herself, in a white and black spotted suit and designer sunglasses, their criticism turned to mumbles and evasions.

Bishop Storey said that while the cancer of South Africa had been apartheid, it had resulted in "secondary infections which eroded some people's sense of right and wrong". He suggested that the Mandela Crisis Committee was as much concerned with "damage control" as it was with ensuring the release of the abducted youths.

Mrs Mandela, who is seeking the deputy presidency of the ANC at next month's conference, faces accusations of up to 13 murders and numerous human rights abuses during the time when President Mandela was still a prisoner.

Frank Chikane, former leader of

**Sam Kiley sees**  
**Veterans admit**  
**that they did not**  
**dare stand up for**  
**abducted youths**

the South African Council of Churches and now a senior adviser to Thabo Mbeki, the Deputy President, said he was part of the Mandela Crisis Committee. "The reaction of Mama was of a person under siege. The reaction was to say: You are talking like the [apartheid] system," he said, using the name by which supporters refer to Mrs Mandela.

Aubrey Mokoena, now an MP, declined under repeated questioning to condemn directly Mrs Mandela's actions and said she might have been unaware of the criminal and brutal behaviour of her entourage.

Sydney Mufamadi, who was also a member of the group and is now minister in charge of the police, said they were once allowed to meet three of the five youths allegedly held at Mrs Mandela's home.

Mr Mufamadi said all three bore fresh wounds, but that the other two attributed their injuries to



Chikane: "She was like a person under siege"

falling from trees. He said the group did not dare to confront Mrs Mandela with the allegation that the boys had been kidnapped and were being assaulted because they could not offer the children sanctuary.

Mr Mufamadi earlier submitted to the commission several internal documents, including one which reported to ANC leaders. One read: "It is with a feeling of terrible sadness that we consider it necessary to express our reservations about Winnie Mandela's judgment in relation to the Mandela Football Club."

In another letter, the group appealed to Tambo in London: "Help us. Map out the way forward... pertaining to Winnie's political life."

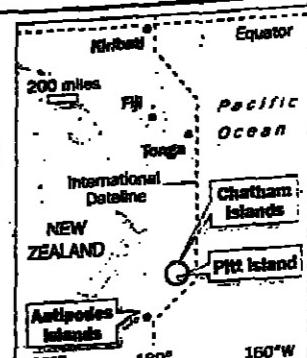
However, while members of the Mandela Crisis Committee appeared unwilling to censure her directly, a senior member of the Government accused Mrs Mandela of condoning or participating in criminal activity and said she should be declared unfit to hold public office.

Azar Cachalia, now Secretary for Safety and Security, and Murphy Morobe, a former activist who now heads the Government's Financial and Fiscal Commission, testified jointly about the football club's reign of terror.

In what Mr Cachalia called "perhaps the most sickening case", he said two youths were abducted to Mrs Mandela's home during the final phase of white rule and were accused by the football club, which he called "a vigilante gang", of being police informers.

"On one of them the letter 'M' was sliced into his chest with a penknife and the words 'Viva ANC' were carved down his right thigh. The second youth also had the words 'Viva ANC' carved on his back."

"At best for Mrs Mandela, she was aware and encouraged this criminal activity. At worst, she directed it and actively participated in the assaults," Mr Cachalia said. □ *Piet Retief: Truth commission investigators have found the bodies of more than 260 ANC guerrillas killed and secretly buried by the apartheid security forces, an investigator said. Fifteen bodies were exhumed near the border with Swaziland yesterday. (AFP)*



**Islanders will see dawn of a new age**

BY NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE first inhabited land to greet the sun as the new millennium dawns will be Pitt Island, a rocky New Zealand dependency that is home to 750 people and 250,000 sheep.

Standing on Hakepa Hill, the lucky islanders and any tourists and television crews that have paid to attend will see the sun rise 14 seconds before 4.5am local time on the morning of January 1, 2000. In Britain, it will still be 4pm on the afternoon of December 31, 1999. The truly adventurous might anticipate the Pitt Island dawn by five minutes by going to the uninhabited Antipodes Islands further south.

The calculations appear in the latest edition of *The Geographical Journal*. Unimportant as they seem, much may hang on them, because two rival groups are aiming to sell television and media rights to the first sunrise of the new millennium.

One group is headed by Norris McWhirter, the former *Guinness Book of Records* editor, who is also one of the authors of the *Geographical Journal* article. Its results will please him, because the Millennium Adventure Company that he heads has bought up part of Hakepa Hill and plans to sell the rights.

A rival consortium, First Light 2000, has claimed that the hill is usually mist-shrouded at dawn, and is offering five other sites on Pitt Island. The claim has been derided by Millennium Adventure, who said the hill is no mistier than any other part of the island.

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FEATURES 19

# A long struggle between the Acts

Entertaining but exasperating: Adams Mars-Jones charts the battle for homosexual law reform from newly released government documents

The trouble with socialism, according to Oscar Wilde, was that it would take too many evenings. The trouble with homosexual law reform in this country, as it trundled erratically towards the achievement of the Sexual Offences Act of 1967, was that it took altogether too many mornings, afternoons and evenings.

The Public Record Office has released a great tranche of documents relevant to the struggle, most of them covering familiar ground but some of them full of entertainment value in their own exasperating way.

Labouchere's Amendment, the notorious "blackmailers' charter" of 1885 that prohibited all forms of sexual activity between men, was tacked onto a Bill to make further provision for the protection of women and girls" and took far less than an evening to bring about. The chamber was half empty, and there was virtually no debate. It occupies a third of a column in *Hansard*. It took millions of man-hours, from the 1950s on, to supplant it.

It is no news that those who introduced reforming legislation, Lord Arran in the Upper House and Leo Abse in the Lower, had nothing to gain personally from a liberalisation of society's atmosphere and were anxious that their position not be misconstrued. Arran later admitted to having spent a year "permanently, if slightly pickled", after the walls of his office, his club and many Underground stations were daubed with the message "Arran home".

Part of the documentation, though, is new: a transcript of a BBC interview from June 1962 between Leo Abse and Edward Gardner, MP. The most interesting passage was cut from the broadcast, either for technical reasons or to smooth ruffled feathers. Abse starts by pointing out that a Government which hopes to take Britain into the Common Market will find itself in a peculiar position "if a man can be living with an adult - let us say in Denmark and if he comes into this country, he can find himself subjected to the criminal law."

The invocation of Europe is astute and even prophetic: the 1967 Act was found by the European Commission in 1981 to have breached the European Convention by excluding Northern Ireland from its provisions. But Edward Gardner shrewdly shifts the discussion from Denmark to somewhere insidiously southern and corrupting. He agrees that there is a different atmosphere "shall we say in a place like Capri", where homosexuality can be indulged "on a whim". Mr. Abse is reduced to spluttering "I have never been to Capri... from what you tell me, I have no desire to go there, because I would find it particularly offensive if the atmosphere which could only be shown by public homosexual behaviour came to my notice."

In a more classically educated age, the

reference to Capri was particularly deadly. This was the island where, as Suetonius recorded, Tiberius trained boys to pleasure him while swimming. To link a law reformer to Capri was to associate him with the most sadistic decadence.

No wonder politicians struck an almost pathologically healthy note. The Home Office spokesman, Lord Stanham, told his fellow peers: "I must have been remarkably lucky or exceptionally blind but, during a fairly active life among men, including 25 years' participation in team games, I did not personally encounter homosexuality ..."

a nest of buggers. Labouchere's Amendment warped millions of lives between 1885 and 1967. The best monument to those lives is *Between The Acts*, a book of oral histories edited by Kevin Porter and Jeffrey Weeks, full of sadness, humour and revelation.

These interviews were conducted in 1978-79 with the financial help of the Social Science Research Council, until an incoming Government with a different agenda cut the Council's funds. On the evidence of these 15 life histories, it may be that it was the Second World War which made homosexual law reform inevitable. When half the world was

in uniform and far from home, a subculture that thrived on anonymity received a massive boost, and the blackout made darkness general, public places private.

Theatregoers in London can currently learn about the recent Dark Ages of homosexual life from two plays. The revival of Mart Crowley's *The Boys in the Band* from 1968 at the Aldwych is a reminder of life before liberation — a not particularly welcome reminder for a gay generation that takes its rights for granted. Tom Stoppard's *The Invention of Love* at the National Theatre has Labouchere as a character, although refracted through the memories and imagination of the play's central character, A.E. Housman. At one point in Stoppard's dream-play, Labouchere even claims to have devised his amendment as a way of forcing the withdrawal of an Act he thought badly drafted, and to have no personal objection to "a French kiss and what-you-fancy between two chaps safe at home with the door shut". If only!

Stoppard in his play is able to do without apparent effort what those law reformers found so hard: to take homosexual emotion seriously. His Housman's jokes and sadnesses, large regrets and small fulfilments, are both particular and universal pangs.

In the years immediately after the 1967 Act, prosecutions went down, not up. Petty policemen were used for purposes of entrapment until a year or two ago. There are still discriminatory offences on the statute book, such as "soliciting for an immoral purpose," and there is still no equality in the age of consent.

As the newly released documents reveal, in June 1967, José Aponte from the Attorney-General's Office of Puerto Rico, wrote to the Home Office, asking for assistance. He had been charged with gathering groundwork for the sections on homosexuality and obscenity of a new penal code for his country, and needed help with the "difficult work of exploring new ways for a sane and modern administration of justice". An official reply was only drafted, laying out the glories of the British legal system as it applies to those areas. A more truthful response at the time might have been: If it's sanity and modernity you want, ask someone else.



Reformer Leo Abse suffered taunts and abuse



The battle goes on: there are still discriminatory offences on the statute book, and there is still no equality

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# Like the real thing, but so much better

Watching the catwalk shows for the current season was a bit like witnessing a reconstruction of Noah's Ark. Only occasionally did the models come down two by two, but the array of animal pelts was striking. From snake and crocodile through to cosy sheepskins, designers' animal instincts were given free rein.

Not all of it was the genuine article. To the horror of campaigners, real fur has indeed made a comeback. But at the same time, artificial substitutes for every type of animal skin are finding new credibility. Faking it is no longer a cheapskate's alternative nor a reaction to animal rights' lobbying, but a positive choice.

The British designer Paul Frith, whose sleek "leather" suiting is sold in the designer rooms of Harrods, among others, uses almost exclusively leatherette. Joseph, while designing and selling the real thing, has rescued PVC trousers from their uncomfortable, fetishist beginnings. They come in every colour, in shiny and matte finishes, in fake snakeskin, in hipster and bootleg cuts... and nobody, but nobody, would judge them inferior to leather.

As designers have experimented, so the high street has been able to get in on the act, producing leatherette side-split skirts, jackets, suede-

Faking it is no longer the cheapskate's alternative, nor is it a reaction to the animal rights lobby. It's fashionable, says Style Editor Grace Bradberry

shirts and trousers, and fake fur collared coats that are desirable in their own right, rather than as cheap copies of catwalk designs. All the leathers, suedes and furs shown here are fake.

Indeed, the fake fabrics themselves are taking on a style status of their own, independent of the things they were designed to imitate. Stephen Higginson, editor of *International Textiles*, compares it to the rise of Australian and New Zealand wines: "When people first began drinking them, they would talk of a wine being like a bordeaux or a French chardonnay. Then it became, This isn't like anything, it is something." Similarly with these new fabrics. As designers experiment, their artificiality is seen as a positive thing."

Breakthroughs in technology have given the new fabrics breathability, and Lycra has added stretch. Other advances in microfibres have vastly improved the tactile qualities and appearance. Some are more versatile than real animal skins. They also take colour better, and their performance ratings are higher.

Even so, says Higginson: "At the designer end of things you never quite know what things are made of, unless it's a capsule collection made at the behest of, say, *Teddy*".

Rich people always like to think that they've got the genuine article. But style is everything now. It's what it

'It's far more exciting to source a new fabric than to buy part of a cow'

looks like and feels like that counts."

The attachment to the real thing, however, remains strong with more status-oriented consumers. In *The Language of Clothes*, Alison Lurie suggests: "To some extent fabric always stands for the skin of the person beneath it." This can be purely to do with

late Seventies and the early Eighties.

Thankfully, stylists have found a middle ground between this kind of hard-edged aesthetic and the romantic opulence of designers such as John Galliano for Dior and Dolce & Gabbana. By mixing fabrics and putting traditionally heavier outdoor pieces with lighter textures, they've created a day to evening look that softens and feminises Eighties aggro-chic and tones down the outrageously expensive allure of the lushier pieces. Sheer tops go under leather suits. A woolly jumper offsets a rich, fur-collared coat. Shapes are sleek and colours such as aubergine, burgundy and olive green mix in with harsher blacks and browns.

In this spirit, American *Vogue* ran an entire shoot called *Svelte Pelts* in which everything was real. Dolce & Gabbana and Gucci's fox-fur-trimmed coats, Etro's Mongolian lambswool coat, and Versace's cashmere cardigan with fox-fur trim were exercises in unabashed consumption.

At the other end of the scale from this kind of retro romanticism, however, slouches the high-trash rock chick glamour of Alexander McQueen and Anna Molinari. Punched-out holes, slashed fringing and "binliner"-style dresses with flat necklines hark back to the style of such tough rock women as Chrissie Hynde, Patti Smith and Siouxie Sioux. It's a punk-goth-rock'n'roll thing, reminiscent of Kensington Market in the



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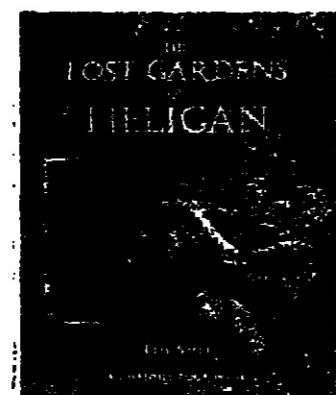
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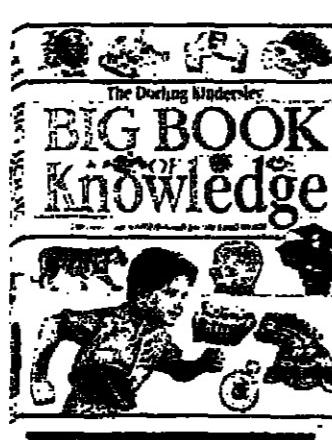
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**OPPOSITE PAGE:**  
Chocolate PVC one-button jacket, £79, and matching pencil skirt, £49.99, by Kooka, 123 Kensington High Street, London W8 (0171-937 4411).  
Burgundy cowl neck, £125, by Patrick Cox, 125 Sloane Street, London SW1 (0171-730 8886).

**TOP LEFT (main picture):**  
Pale grey and olive striped devoré tank, £90 by Ghost, 36 Ledbury Road, London W11 (0181-960 3121). Burgundy A-line leatherette skirt, £65, by Wit and Wisdom at Hype Dr, 48-52 Kensington High Street (0171-937 6355).

**TOP RIGHT:**  
Brown suede shirt, £26.99, by Oasis, available from branches nationwide (01865 881986). Chocolate PVC pencil skirt, £150, by Plein Sud at Harrods, Knightsbridge, London SW3. Black bead and diamanté necklace, £26, by Ageha, 4 South Molton Street, London W1 (0171-495 2779). Burgundy velvet ankle boots, £275, by Gina, 189 Sloane Street (0171-235 2932).

**BOTTOM LEFT:**  
Burgundy velvet belted coat with lace-lur trim, £339 by Joseph, 26 Sloane Street (0171-590 6200). Pale pink and black embroidered skirt, £468, and black silk underslip, £278, by Elspeth Gibson at A La Mode, Hans Crescent, London SW1 (inquiries: 0171-561 0773). Petrol blue leather stiletto ankle boots, £295, by Gina for Ghost.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:**  
Lilac cable-knit polo neck, £75 by Whistles, 27 Sloane Street (0171-730 9819). Chocolate suedette side-slit min, £29.99, by Jane Norman, from branches nationwide (0171-437 0132). Plum velvet knee boots, £169, by LK Bennett, 31 Brook Street, London W1 (0171-491 3005). Opaque tights by Wolford.

Photographer:  
ALEX SARGINSON  
Stylist: Sunny Rowley  
Hair: Nicola Clarke for Andrew José  
Make-up: Sarah Boak at Terrie Tanaka  
Model: Lydia M at Storm

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# Is Blair too flexible to be a friend?

The trade unions still have their reservations, says John Lloyd

**F**lexibility is one of the great words of the end of the millennium. It has resonance. We know it is in some way right. It signifies the end of an era of late-industrial relationships in which places were, for a time, known and in which classes were, though never static, defined. It points out the potentials and dilemmas of an age in which symbols are often more important than objects. Its very omni-applicability and vagueness excite the imagination. It conjures up a world of endless malleability, in which the blocks and contradictions of life can be dissolved in an appeal to be flexible.

The logic of an age in which information-based capitalism is so rapidly replacing industrial capitalism means that the moorings to which societies tied themselves are loosened. No skill is forever learnt; no corporation is secure; no job, or at least no job description, is for life. Even if the insecurities of modern employment have been exaggerated, there is no doubt that the insecurities felt by many workers in advanced societies are real.

Flexibility in work seems to mean the emergence of a society in which a few who can best grasp and manipulate both information and people are rewarded highly. They become, in Tom Wolfe's satire of the information society, "The Bonfire of the Vanities", "Lords of the Universe". The majority cope with the new societies more or less well. They are often enriched by the intellectual possibilities opened for them and by the end of the settled, sometimes oppressive relationships which characterised the industrial order.

But a large number are excluded and marginalised. They are useless — literally — for there is simply no work for their idle hands. Their intellects have not been trained, or they do not stretch them, to cope with even the lower level of information tasks. Karl Marx saw the rise of the proletariat as a force which could and would expropriate the expropriators, or capitalists. Now, the new Lords of the Universe are expropriating the proletariat. A new capitalism's flexible financial universe renders the workers worthless, and makes of them an underclass.

This is the universe in which new Labour operates. It is itself a lord of it. This week, one of new Labour's more ambiguous figures tried to set some solid ground below his part of it. John Monks, General Secretary of the TUC, is ambiguous not in his person, but in his relation to the "project". He has been seen, not wholly wrongly, as involved. He explicitly pursues a new unionism, seeking (as all union leaders in advanced societies must) to marry necessary flexibility with the continuation of a trade union role.

Yet he gave a speech on Wednesday evening to the Jim Conway Foundation which took direct issue with flexibility in its new Labour guise. Conceding the centrality of the

word, he said that it "concerned more than it illuminated". New ways of working were inevitable: a recasting of industrial society and of welfare states overdue.

But, he held, the awkward fact was that flexibility was interpreted as a lowering or ending of employment protection; declining unionisation; lower unemployment benefits.

Britain, he said, tops the flexibility league in two ways: it is the easiest country in which to fire people and it has the lowest capital employed per worker.

Nor can it be said that where unions are strong, employment protection robust and benefits high, there is always higher unemployment. There is such a relationship if there are no active labour market policies; but otherwise no such conclusion can be drawn. He has put these points to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister said he was interested, and asked for more information.

Tony Blair may well be interested. But he is governed by a fear of being seen to slip back into old Labour attitudes. Thus when he was interviewed about his pitch to fellow European heads of government at the jobs summit in Amsterdam last weekend, he said three times that the way to create jobs "is not to load a whole lot of costs on business" but to invest in education, setting a stable framework.

Gordon Brown's green Budget this past week was a lesson in setting a stable framework, new Labour-style. In confirming the cut in benefits to single-parent families by £11 a week and at the same time assisting the poorer pensioners over the winter, he gave flesh to what has always been his conception — to attract or push the able-bodied into work of any kind, and to be as generous as prudence allows to the old and the sick.

**T**his is why the Labour leadership is nervous about the pro-trade union measures to which they are committed — especially the minimum wage and statutory recognition of trade unions. The leadership wants the wage to be set just above a level at which it would be wholly meaningless; and it wants the unions to produce an agreement with the CBI which will show its members to be happy to recognise unions where they organise a majority of workers. It fears that it will get neither — and if so, that it will have industrial battles, and turn a flank to the Tories at last.

John Monks wants to marry justice with social justice, including social justice at work. New Labour likes the sound of that; but the reality of it will be hard to deliver. The Prime Minister shies away from it as a horse from fire. This Government will try, which is more than one could say of the last one. But it will take a very good trick indeed to pull off such a marriage.

The author is associate editor of the *New Statesman*.



## And then there were none

### Casting out his Europhiles would lose Hague allies and not impress voters

**I**t was about seven, and we lived in Nicosia. My friend was a good-natured boy called David Gray. A year older, he was from a Yorkshire family and talked like William Hague.

We both had bicycles: his new, mine with no brakes. Playing it by the dried-up river, we agreed it would be dangerous and fun to try freewheeling down the steep track to the bottom of the gorge. I urged David to try, on my old bike. I did mention the problem with the brakes but suggested that this added to the excitement. Oddly, in retrospect, David did not insist that a more suitable person to take risks on my bike was me. "Go on," I said, "you try!"

He did. He gathered speed, lost balance and fell off. Though not seriously hurt, he gashed his jaw. David, if you are alive and reading this, I am sorry I talked you into it. And I am truly sorry that when you staggered back up the track with blood on your face, I lost my nerve and scarpered. I was afraid of your mother. The incident reflects badly on my character.

And now a new danger. People in newspapers are persuading William Hague to go freewheeling without brakes down a steepening slope; and although I am sure that if William falls off, Bruce Anderson would own up and take him home, no switches would mend Mr Hague's leadership as they did Master Gray's jaw.

One cites Bruce Anderson, the political editor of *The Spectator*, because nobody more persuasively puts the case for baseless bicycling. He put it to me, on the letters page opposite. I had written in these columns that since Oppositions do not govern, they should feel in no hurry to settle policy on every awkward issue. Who knows? I said, events may settle the single currency question. Europhiles or Eurosceptics may wish to shift position later.

Bruce disagrees. He wrote *The Times* a courteous letter putting with passion the case for decisive action to settle the Tory course at once in a Eurosceptic direction. If there are some who are reluctant to march, he said, it is better they leave now. His argument is powerful, rational and profoundly unwise.

Anderson has been impressed, I suspect, by the way Labour has dealt with its hard Left. He concludes that you can strip backsliders from a political party rather than you pick the black bits from a peeled potato, leaving an essentially wholesome

vegetable for the pot. And the sooner the better.

So there are a few wobblers over Hague's "not for a decade" approach to the single currency? So what? Ten times that number are loyal. Good riddance to dissenters! Teach them a lesson, stiffen the doubters, impress the public, kill the issue in the press, and free Hague's sword to strike at Labour! Look what leaving the dispute to simmer did to Major. Let's sort this thing out once for all.

Alas, another one bites the dust. A leaner, fitter onion now?

And then you have David Curry and Ian Taylor, both of whom have quit as Tory spokesmen. I hear no

bread from either that they would contemplate quitting the party — but in the end both may.

These are men of ability and uncommon sense. Few other junior ministers

brought the calm

competence which was Taylor's hallmark. Curry's good brain and palpable decency marked him for an important post in a future Cabinet.

Skipton & Ripon did not fall, as

neighbouring Harrogate did, to the

Liberals, but Curry is vulnerable to a

Lib-Lab voting pact. He would be a

heavyweight catch for the Liberal

Democrats at Westminster — and I bet Paddy Ashdown would deal. The

Onion shrinks. Who next?

I realise Bruce might regard the departure of Sir Edward Heath as a cause for celebration, but I do think that to lose a former Prime Minister would look another view. Is the day coming when an openly gay man might be waved through into the Shadow Cabinet, guiltily hiding his secret doubt about whether, if the euro succeeds, Tories might not need to think again? How far should inclusiveness go?

One has to be very sure — gripped by the centrality of one's cause, certain it could not be mistaken — before one drives old friends away instead of trying to talk them round. Confident that problems with the single currency will out, I am not so inflamed as to be prepared to put my party to the sword of my opinions.

I fear the Conservative Party is riding for a fall. Forty years ago I failed one Yorkshireman by egging him on. I will not do the same to another.

**Don't kill off king coal**  
Keep our energy options open,  
says Yvette Cooper

**W**hat's a bright woman like you doing defending an old, dirty, declining industry like that? This was the question implicit in the *Times* article yesterday which described me as a Blairite MP forced to defend the threatened coal industry. The journalist clearly found it hard to believe that a young woman so closely associated with new Labour, should be standing up for an industry so strongly linked to Arthur Scargill.

Safeguarding our collieries is being portrayed as a hopelessly nostalgic and uneconomic thing to do. Modern, hard-headed economists would — so the story goes — just let the market rip and shrug their shoulders if coal goes under.

But to caricature the debate in this way is not just wrong; it is dangerous. This is not to say that I believe the Government should leap in whenever big employers are in trouble. It can't. A sensible modern industrial policy recognises that in some markets free competition promotes the public interest, but in others — where there is monopoly power, for instance — regulation is essential. Energy markets are already regulated. But this is not working to promote the public interest. Both coal and the consumer are losing out.

When the energy industry was privatised, the previous Conservative Government handed over the lion's share of our generating capacity to two major companies, PowerGen and National Power. This duopoly has been able to use the strange mechanism of setting electricity prices (the pool) to keep customer bills, and their own profits, unfairly high.

And what battles pollsters is that respondents consistently declare their views on Europe to be closely mirrored by this new Tory Likid; yet when asked to choose words which best describe the Tories, they select "narrow", "ideological", "unkind" and "extreme". Something measured, venerable, tolerant, careful; something... safe seems to have gone from the Conservative Party. Perhaps because we voters are secretly less confident of our opinions than we pretend, we place more importance on a party's prudential qualities — its affability and caution, its general air of good sense — than upon any particular congruence between its spokesman's opinions and our own.

The regulator then permitted these new power producers to agree long-term contracts at high prices with the regional electricity companies that part-owned them and then pass the costs on to their captive customers — us. These so-called "sweetheart deals" continue to exclude coal. Add into the equation subsidies to foreign players turned into a dash for gas.

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The year 2000 arrives. *The Times* runs a leading article declaring that the purge has been more protracted than was hoped, but now the party is ready. At 17 per cent in the polls, it can only be up! Heseltine retires and at the ensuing by-election, the Tories lose Henley.

Now Bruce: I don't know about you, my friend, but this prospect does not please me. You and I agree about the single currency, but our Conservative onion was always a multi-layered thing and for 20 years — since Chris Patten hired us both at the Conservative Research Department — we stayed friends with Tories who took another view. Is the day coming when an openly gay man might be waved through into the Shadow Cabinet, guiltily hiding his secret doubt about whether, if the euro succeeds, Tories might not need to think again? How far should inclusiveness go?

We need real research into the level of risk we will face in future, so we can draw up a balanced strategy for responding to those risks.

It is time to go further. The Government's power generators and coal producers need to come together urgently to seek solutions. The Government needs to hasten the pool review. A moratorium should be called on new gas-fired power stations and we should support the development of clean coal technology. Both gas and electricity regulators must now take a more robust approach to competition, stop the long-term gas contracts and clamp down directly on abuses of market power.

Meanwhile, the companies must recognise their responsibility to become more productive and efficient, working for contracts rather than playing brinkmanship games with people's jobs and people's lives. Coal producers must go out and make the case for coal, rather than waiting for government help.

Coal should not be seen as an old declining industry, but as a modern, forward-looking industry, facing up to the challenges of competition and critical to our economic security. We need determined action now to get a fair deal and safeguard coal's future, not just for the sake of the 1,200 hard-working miners I represent, but for good economic and strategic reasons.

The author is MP for Pontefract and Castleford.

## Royal nosh

AFTER the hype surrounding the so-called "people's banquet", celebrations for the golden wedding of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh are taking a more traditional turn. The couple have been invited for a secret feed at the House of Lords, courtesy of the Privy Council. Some 300 politicos are to attend next month — and the seating will conform strictly to rank. "The senior Counsellors will be placed near Her Majesty," says the Clerk of the Council, referring to the Earl of Avon, the Lord Chancellor ... you know the crowd. Happily, it also marks a welcome return to the top table for the Earl of Caithness, the former minister whose wife, Diana, killed herself three years ago. The earl, now a successful estate agent, is expected to sit close to the Queen. People's champions Tony Benn and Lord Healey "will sit on other tables, slightly farther away".

• **TUESDAY** found Sir Tim Sainsbury parting at Somerset House, a ghastly piece of masonry soon to be refurbished. The improvements promised Sir Tim, would include making the courtyard "free of all cars". Odd, then, that staff had been instructed to create 11 courtyard parking slots for P-reg guests.



most of his work was defending the "underdog" wives of rich men.

• NOT CONTENT with the resounding from her salacious screen appearances, Sharon Stone has resorted to busing. Last week found her on the platform of a New York subway station, subjecting her fellow travellers to a rendition of Amazing Grace. Although even the politest present were heard to complain that she was rather out of tune, several coins were tossed in her direction (if only to shut her up).

### Missing vow

LATEST bulletin from the wedding preparations of William Hague, the refreshingly independent Fiona Jenkins will not vow to obey her husband, a man who

spends much of his time ordering his MPs to toe the line. Traditionalists will be relieved to hear that this will be the only touchy-feely element to an otherwise traditional service.

Elin's refusal does not faze the Rev Donald Gray, who will conduct next month's ceremony in the Crypt Chapel at the House of Commons. "Most couples don't tend to obey," he says. "I always meet couples before a service and run through the options — the decision is entirely up to them."

Guests, meanwhile, have been startled by the prices of wedding gifts on offer at the Wedding Shop. There's virtually nothing under £100," grumbles one.

It took even longer to come out than one of their pints.



ADOLESCENT spirits at Dowsdale School — a monastic institution in deepest Somerset — have been raised by a visit from Pet Shop Boy Chris Lowe. The word among the electric-harpsichord set is that Lowe wants to learn about Gregorian chanting, the music practised by the Dowsdale monks, who released an album *Gregorian Moods*, earlier this month.

Lowe, who was accompanied by the pockmarked old drummer Simon Gilbert, clearly endeared himself to his hosts. "He's brilliant," gushes the Headmaster, Father Anthony Sutcliff. "But I was too shy to tell them that I'd already been to the Pet Shop Boys concert for my birthday."

• TRIUMPH, at last, for Madonna: after three weeks scouring London's cul-de-sacs for suitable digs, she has bought a house in Kensington for £4 million. The pad — bleak, Georgian, off the High Street — needs extensive renovation. "It doesn't look hugely impressive from the outside, but it's worth every penny," says a friend. "There's excellent security."



JASPER GERARD

HAGUE'S GEN

Don't  
kill off  
king coal  
Keep our energy  
options open  
Yvette Cooper

THE TIMES FRIDAY NOVEMBER 28 1997

JPII 10/10/97

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## GHOSTS OF LABOUR PAST

The minimum wage will benefit no one, least of all the poor

Yesterday's publication of the Bill to establish a national minimum wage was an act of ancestor-worship by the Government, a homage to the ghosts of old Labour past. Tony Blair's ambition to expand people's opportunities in a modern, competitive and humane Britain is ill-served by this irrelevant, economically illiterate and potentially harmful decision. To adapt Lord Keynes, it reveals the Prime Minister and his team as "the slaves of some defunct trade unionist". For Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, it was "a very proud day because it is the beginning of the end of poverty pay". It is better described as a detour from the Government's campaign to move people off welfare and into work — a strategy in which clumsy interventionist tinkering has no logical place.

Having fashioned this rod for its own back, the Government now confronts hard choices indeed, starting with the rate itself and its impact on employment. How will wages — which in the real world may include such things as tips, piecework rates, payments in kind such as subsidised meals or accommodation — be calculated? How will the minimum wage interact with benefit and taxes, if low income families are not to end up worse off? How often is the rate to be raised and on what basis? How can "catch-up" demands for higher wages by better-paid workers, or a growth in sub-minimum wage black market jobs, be avoided?

Ian McCartney, the minister responsible, says that it is up to the Low Pay Commission to come up with proposals, as also over whether to exclude trainees and young workers from the law. He insists that employers will learn to love the minimum wage because it will stop undercutting by bad employers and create a "level playing field". But it is by enforcing competition that

governments best level playing fields, not by dictating rates of pay. The minister says that Britain should follow the example of other major Western European countries — and dismisses their double-digit unemployment figures as irrelevant. Tony Blair, who lectures them constantly on the need for flexible labour markets, should not.

The computer projections flooding into the Low Pay Commission cannot make comforting reading. They show that a very low minimum wage of £3 to £3.70 an hour would price few people out of jobs, but equally would do little to lift the low-paid out of poverty. To cease to depend on in-work benefits, most workers would have to work nearly 70 hours a week; and the main beneficiary would then be the Treasury, with the employee gaining as little as 3p in the pound.

A higher minimum wage of £4.15 an hour, well below the £4.60 sought by trade unions, would greatly benefit those who keep their jobs, particularly the 800,000 very low-paid whose existing wages would nearly double. But according to a DTI estimate this year for the previous Government, if other workers maintained wage differentials, the cost would be 1.8 million jobs. If a minimum wage will not help the poor and could cost jobs, whom will it benefit? The answer, from the Institute of Fiscal Studies, is that most of the cash gain will go to middle-income families who are not affected by the benefits trap.

So either a minimum wage does little harm, but little good; or it risks harming the very poorest, those with no job at all, while damaging the overall economy. The Government's decision to set a flat rate for the whole country and all economic sectors suggests that it would prefer a rate too low to make an impact in the real world of work. The ancestors may not be so easily appeased. It was unwise to disturb their sleep.

## OPEN SEASON

Hunt supporters must deploy calm reason and compromise

Twenty years ago the Commons chose to decriminalise an activity which was then offensive to many but which, as legislators realised, was even more offensive to liberal sentiment to ban. Yesterday's release of papers from the Public Record Office reminds us how hard it is now to imagine a Britain where homosexual acts between consenting men in private made convicts of the otherwise law-abiding. Those MPs who were brave enough to vote for tolerance, with their consciences and contrary to many of their constituents' views, were discharging the proper duty of parliamentarians.

Today the Commons will vote to ban the actions of another unpopular minority, whose recreation, according to liberal sentiment, ought not to be made illegal. Yet Michael Foster's Wild Animals (Hunting with Dogs) Bill is certain to secure an overwhelming majority. Although it will not become law in this Parliamentary session, the will of the Commons is unlikely to be long frustrated.

The arguments have become bitter on both sides. However strongly any individual may object to another taking pleasure in hunting wild creatures, fox and stag hunting can be vigorously defended as a leisure pursuit which a free society should tolerate, as an intimate part of rural life, as a source of employment and as the most effective form of conservation. Those arguments do not seem to have weighed with the majority of MPs, or Britain's predominantly urban population, and defenders of hunting should treat the view of the majority with something of the respect they rightly demand for their own case. Threats of civil disobedience are ill-judged and inappropriate.

Although today's vote will create a momentum for abolition, space has been created for a longer debate during which a

thoughtful defence of hunting can be rehearsed. Supporters of hunting owe Tony Blair a small, but significant, debt. Although they may curse his skill as an Opposition Leader, which led to a Commons majority against them, they should acknowledge the wisdom he has shown as Prime Minister in managing that majority to allow hunt supporters a longer opportunity to be heard.

Given the case for hunting can make converts. Former officers in the League Against Cruel Sports, including a past executive director, James Barrington, resigned from the organisation because close engagement with argument convinced them that a ban on foxhunting would not be in the interest of foxes. Hunting kills only a small proportion of the number of foxes culled every year, fewer than those controlled by the arguably crueler methods of digging out and shooting which more often maims than kills. If hunting were banned the number of foxes and deer killed would probably rise and some landowners may be tempted to use the unarguably crueler methods of gassing or poisoning. The recent mass culling of stags in the Quantocks is a portent of what may await the fox population.

The deployment of logic by supporters of hunting should be matched by a sensitivity to the concerns of their honest opponents. The pro-hunting lobby, rightly, asks for urban Britain to respect the settled habits of countrymen, but those who hunt should appreciate the strength of genuine revulsion inspired by some of hunting's excesses. A willingness to compromise, to explore how habits might be changed and legislation framed in the best interests of animal and man, may lead to a better Bill in a future session. Today strong feelings will have an outlet. In the months to come there must be hard thinking from open minds.

## HAGUE'S GENDER GAP

Women need a greater say in the Tory party

The hats may have gone but the prejudices live on. At the Conservative Women's Conference yesterday, there was at best ambivalence about getting more of their ranks into Parliament. The younger ones are keen. But many older women, who dominate Tory selection committees, do not seem to care what sex their candidate is, as long as he has a wife, good taste in ties and a sonorous voice.

All had to face the fact that the Tories returned as few women at the last election as they did in 1931, the year the conference first met; and that while women have increased their representation in every other area of society, in the Conservative Party they have not. If it were a private club, this might not matter. But it is an institution which seeks support from the public, and it must wonder if women voters, who make up 52 per cent of the electorate, like what they see.

While women used to vote Tory in far greater numbers than men (mainly because they live longer, and the old are more conservative), the "gender gap" snapped shut on May 1. Labour made inroads particularly with young women, who preferred Labour to the Tories by a margin of 29 points, compared with a 15-point lead among men of the same age.

If women had always voted the same way as men, Britain would have had many more Labour governments. The gender gap is therefore crucial to the Tories. Yet there was little sign from members attending yes-

terday that the party understands what needs to be done to bring women back. Quotas were derided as patronising; that may be so, but, as Labour proved, a single election in which some women are "patronised" will have substantial long-term effects in female representation.

The women's conference will continue after the party reforms, even though it serves to emphasise their separation from the mainstream. No place will be reserved for a women's representative on the party's management board where the real business will be done. Meanwhile, the only member who dared to bring a child was kissed when she pointed out how useful a crèche would have been.

More than two thirds of women work, and the proportion is rising fast. Although women share many political concerns equally with men, there are others that affect them disproportionately. Labour's childcare plans, for instance, are a sensible, unideological and economically efficient policy that will go down particularly well with mothers. So why, in 18 years, did the Conservatives do so little? Partly because of their ambivalence about working women; but also because women play such a small role in the counsels of their party.

Even now, William Hague's kitchen cabinet is entirely male. Just one woman, Gillian Shephard, sits in the Shadow Cabinet, and she seems keen to bow out. Action is needed if the Tories are to woo women back.

## Candidate choice blights the Tories

From Mr John de Courcy Ling

Sir, The letters (November 25) of Mrs Georgina Hibberd and Mr Chris Metz from Winchester deserve the attention of Lord Freeman, the recently appointed vice-chairman in charge of parliamentary candidates at Conservative Central Office.

Mrs Hibberd says that: "It is all

very well for a right-wing party, in

cahoots with local reactionaries,

to find seats for their placemen."

The problem is not confined to Winchester. Since Margaret Thatcher replaced

Edward Heath as party leader in early

1976 there was a concerted move-

ment at Central Office to find a differ-

ent kind of candidate from hitherto.

Business and the City were prefer-

red to public service and the profes-

sions. A series of party vice-chair-

men from 1976 until the elections of

May 1997 sought to fill the Conser-

ative benches in Parliament with

young men and women who were

theoretical to live up to the some-

what idiosyncratic image of Margaret

Thatcher.

In Winchester in 1977, the candidate

selected was an able businessman

specialising in contacts in the Arab

world. By 1992, however, his conduct

was causing such concern that he was

suspended from the House of Com-

mmons and disowned by the party. His

successor, described by Mrs Hibberd

as "an

ambitious Scot in need of a safe seat",

seemed to fit the pattern of someone

whose interests were arguably more

commercial than pastoral.

The consequence of this sadly mis-

guided selection policy is that Conser-

vative seats in the House of Commons and in the European Parliament (but

not fortunately in local government)

are now all too frequently filled by

hard-nosed individuals more interest-

ed in private profit than service to

society. The near fatal crisis in the

Conservative Party is not so much one

of policies but of personnel.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN DE COURCY LING,

Lamb House,

Bladon, Woodstock, Oxfordshire.

November 25.

## Winchester result

From Mr P. J. V. Tuke

Sir, When visiting the Winchester con-

stituency last week (letters, November

22 and 25), I found there was a warm

appreciation for the way in which the

Liberal Democrats are providing con-

structive opposition in Parliament.

Many recognise that vigorous oppo-

sition to that with which you disagree

and fighting for what you feel strong

about is so much more effective if you

are prepared to support measures

with which you broadly agree. It is

heartening that the electorate has

grown tired of adversarial politics.

Yours faithfully,

PETER TUKE (Chairman,

Harting Liberal Democrats),

Mill Stream, East Harting,

Petersfield, Hampshire.

November 25.

## Radio for children

From Mr Stephen Keeler

Sir, It is ridiculous to claim (letter, November 25) that the Conservative candidate's defeat in the Winchester by-election was due to the party's Euroscepticism: the Euro Conservative candidate polled a mere 40 votes.

Yours faithfully,

SUZANNE AVERY.

The Orchard,

Milford-on-Sea, Hampshire.

November 25.

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&lt;



## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
November 27: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this morning visited Radley College and were received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire (Mr Hugo Brunner), the Chairman of Radley College Council (Mr Michael Melhuish) and the Warden (Mr Richard Morgan).

Her Majesty opened Queen's Court Support Schemes, and, with His Royal Highness, toured the College, attended a Service in the Chapel and joined the Warden, masters and boys for Lunch in Hall.

Her Majesty this afternoon visited Berinsfield, Oxfordshire, and was received by the Chairman of South Oxfordshire District Council (Councillor Kenneth Hall).

The Queen visited Berinsfield Health Centre, was received by the Senior Partner (Dr Timothy Hulme) and met other doctors, health visitors, mothers and babies.

Her Majesty later visited Mount Carmel Community Education Centre, Berinsfield, which was received by the Community Education Organiser (Mr Stephen Parker) and met students and tutors.

The Queen afterwards visited Berinsfield County Primary School and was received by the Chairman of Governors (Ms Sheila Croft) and the Headteacher (Mr Michael Tait).

Her Majesty toured the School, meeting governors, teachers and children.

Her Majesty later visited Abbey Sports Centre, Berinsfield, was received by the Manager (Ms Dinah Boultton) and watched a range of sports activities.

Her Majesty subsequently visited St Mary and St Bern's Church, Berinsfield, and was received by the Vicar (the Reverend Andrew Town).

In the Church Hall the Queen met representatives from the Church and the community of Berinsfield.

The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon, at 4pm, met Mrs Park, head of the Motor and Allied Trades Benevolent Fund in Humber Road, Coventry, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Midlands (Mr Robert Taylor).

Her Royal Highness later opened Hotel Ley Court, the new Hotel Ley Court in Berinsfield Road, Leamington Spa, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Warwickshire (Mr Martin Dunne).

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**

November 27: The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund,

this morning visited Her Majesty's Prison Holloway, Parkhurst Road, London N7.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, Sense (the National Deafblind and Rubella Association), afterwards visited a School for the Deaf Sisters Road, Holloway, London N7.

The Princess Royal this afternoon attended the State Banquet at the Goring Hotel, Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, National Association of Victims Support Schemes, afterwards attended the Annual General Meeting at the Bayswater, Chiswell Street, London EC1.

**CLARENCE HOUSE**

November 27: Members of the Canadian Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association today had the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

Her Majesty, accompanied by The Queen, the Hon Lady Astor of Hever, who presided over this evening's Reception given by the Franco-British Society at St James's Palace.

Dame Frances Campbell-Preston, the Lady Nicholas, Gordon Lennox and Sir Alastair Aird were in attendance.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**

November 27: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, President, the Somers Association, this afternoon received Dr Ian Adamson (Chairman) and Mr David Campbell (Secretary/Managing Director).

The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, National Asthma Campaign, attended a musical evening at Drapers Hall, London EC1.

HATCHED LODGE

November 27: Princess Anne, Alexandra, Patron, this afternoon opened the Arthur Wilson Day Centre of BEN-Motor and Allied Trades Benevolent Fund in Humber Road, Coventry, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Midlands (Mr Robert Taylor).

Her Royal Highness later opened Hotel Ley Court, the new Hotel Ley Court in Berinsfield Road, Leamington Spa, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Warwickshire (Mr Martin Dunne).

of campaigning and chief agent, Conservative Central Office, 45; the Right Rev M.G. Haig, Duke, former Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane, 72; Lord Macdonald, 90; Mr Keith Miller, former cricketer, 78; General Sir David Brown, 70; Mr Geoffrey Clarke, artist and sculptor, 78; Sir David Cromer-Jones, former Lord Justice of Appeal; Mr Alan Alistair Darling, former Secretary to the Treasury, 44; Mr F.H. du Prez, former rugby player, 62; Terence Frisby, playwright, actor and producer, 66; Mr Tony Garrett, director 66; Sir Raymond Whitney, 57.

**BIRTHDAYS TODAY**

Mr Kris Akabusi, athlete, 39; Miss Fiona Armstrong, broadcast, 41; Sir Gordon Bannerman, former Vice-Chancellor, Queen's University, Belfast, 64; Queen Sirikit, 61; Vice-Admiral Sir David Brown, 70; Mr Geoffrey Clarke, artist and sculptor, 78; Sir David Cromer-Jones, former Lord Justice of Appeal; Mr Alan Alistair Darling, former Secretary to the Treasury, 44; Mr F.H. du Prez, former rugby player, 62; Terence Frisby, playwright, actor and producer, 66; Mr Tony Garrett, director 66.

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**Memorial services**

Sir Henry Peat

Mr Michael Peat, Keeper of the Privy Purse, Treasurer to the Queen and Receiver-General of the Duchy of Lancaster, was present at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Henry Peat, chartered accountant and former Auditor to The Queen's Privy Purse, held yesterday at St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe, London EC4. The Rev John Paul officiated. Mr Robin Peat and Mr Richard Peat, sons, read the lessons. Mr John Philip gave an address. Among others present were Mrs Gillian Peat (daughter), Mrs Ruth Peat, Mrs Laura Peat, Mr and Mrs Christian Corrigall (grandchildren), Mr and Mrs Alan Peat, Mr Shane Blewitt, Sir John Grenville, Sir Alan Hardcastle, Mr Colin Sharman (son), Mr Peter Sharman (son), Mr Sharman, Mr Peter Humppage, Mr Peter Sharman (son), Mr Peter Freedman (representing CARA) and many other friends and colleagues.

Mr Alec Muir

The High Sheriff of Durham City attended a service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Alec Andrew Muir, former Clerk of the Royal Naval Authority, held yesterday in Durham Cathedral. Canon Dr Martin Kitchen officiated, assisted by Canon Simon Howe, the Rev Michael Hampel, Precentor, and the Rev John Scorer, Durham Constabulary's senior chaplain.

Mr Tom Muir, son, and Mr Derek Harrison, President of the Royal Naval Association and Police Officer, read the lessons. Mr Hugh Bedenikin gave a reading and Mr Eddy

Merchant, Deputy Chief Constable of Durham, gave an address. Among other guests were:

Mr Alan Fisher (daughter), Mr Julian Part (stepson), Mrs Katherine Dugdale (niece), Mr Christopher Corlett (nephew), Mr and Mrs Morris Nichols, Mr Alan Miller, Mr David Blaize, Mr Alan Brown, Mr David Clegg, Mr Alan Farmer, Mrs Thomas Farmer, Mrs Dennis Gates, Mr Fred Wilson and many other friends and former colleagues.

Mr Derek Salter

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Derek Salter, Director of the Almonry, Birmingham, Birmingham, 77, was held yesterday in Birmingham Cathedral. The Provost of Birmingham officiated.

Miss Fenella Fielding and Mr Wyn Calver gave readings. Miss Rosemary Leah and Mr Mike Smith, Chairman of Warwickshire County Cricket Club, paid tribute. Mr Peter Tod, Director of the Birmingham Hippodrome, gave an address.

**Margaret Carmichael (née MacKellar)**

A service of thanksgiving to celebrate the life of Margaret Carmichael will be held on Tuesday, December 9, 1997, at 1pm at St Columba's Church of Scotland, 100 New Bond Street, London SW1. All are welcome. To assist with seating and catering please reply as soon as possible to Helen Houley, Hawkwood, Bury Road, London E4 7QL, phone 0181 529 6500 or fax 0171 247 4989.

**HALLANTINE**

Peacefully in Hay Lodge Hospital, Peckham, on November 27, 1997, after an illness bravely borne, David Hallantine of Peckham and formerly of The Hague, Holland, died at home.

**HOLMWOOD**

On Tuesday November 25th at the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford, Nicki (née Elsden) and Mark, a daughter, and Bernice, a sister for Marianne and George.

**GOLETT**

On November 13th, to Emily (née MacCormack), Oakford, and Jane, a baby sister for Marianne and George.

**HUBBARD**

On 27th November, to Richard and Diane (née Bell), a daughter, Anna Clare, a sister for Benjamina.

**MACKINTOSH**

On November 1st, to Elaine (née Peacock) and Hugo, a daughter, Elizabeth Gillian.

**HOLT**

On 26th November, to Anne (née Carty) and Simon, a daughter, and Richard, a son, August Joseph.

**MAHADU VENGER**

Jules, born 2nd November 1997, to Vicki (née Peacock) and Hugo, a daughter, Elizabeth Gillian, and Veronique, a brother for Marianne and George.

**FIELDHOUSE**

On Tuesday November 25th at the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford, Nicki (née Elsden) and Mark, a daughter, and Bernice, a sister for Marianne and George.

**FOLLIOTT**

On 20th November 1997, to Vicki (née Peacock) and Hugo, a daughter, Elizabeth Gillian.

**HOLST**

On 26th November, to Anne (née Carty) and Simon, a daughter, and Richard, a son, August Joseph.

**WILSONS**

On 26th November 1997, to Vicki (née Peacock) and Hugo, a daughter, Elizabeth Gillian, and Veronique, a brother for Marianne and George.

**DEATHS**

**HALLANTINE**

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On 25th November, to Emily (née MacCormack), Oakford, and Jane, a baby sister for Marianne and George.

**GOLETT**

On November 13th, to Emily (née MacCormack), Oakford, and Jane, a baby sister for Marianne and George.

**HUBBARD**

On 27th November, to Richard and Diane (née Bell), a daughter, Anna Clare, a sister for Benjamina.

**MACKINTOSH**

On November 1st, to Elaine (née Peacock) and Hugo, a daughter, Elizabeth Gillian, and Veronique, a brother for Marianne and George.

**FOLLIOTT**

On 20th November 1997, to Vicki (née Peacock) and Hugo, a daughter, Elizabeth Gillian, and Veronique, a brother for Marianne and George.

**HOLST**

On 26th November, to Anne (née Carty) and Simon, a daughter, and Richard, a son, August Joseph.

**WILSONS**

On 26th November 1997, to Vicki (née Peacock) and Hugo, a daughter, Elizabeth Gillian, and Veronique, a brother for Marianne and George.

**DEATHS**

**HALLANTINE**

Peacefully in Hay Lodge Hospital, Peckham, on November 27, 1997, after an illness bravely borne, David Hallantine of Peckham and formerly of The Hague, Holland, died at home.

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## NEWS

**MPs attack Blair on Formula One**

■ Tony Blair came under renewed pressure over the Formula One affair as two Commons committees — both Labour dominated — strongly criticised his decision to exempt motor racing from the tobacco sponsorship ban.

The Commons health and European legislation committees rashed out reports seriously questioning the Prime Minister's justification for the special treatment — the first time the Government has faced select committee criticism.....Page 1

**Guinness casts cloud over City**

■ Inspectors from the Department of Trade and Industry accuse the main players in the Guinness affair of "an enterprise of deception" in their report, published ten years after it was commissioned. Although further prosecutions are unlikely, the report cast a cloud over City practices.....Page 1

**Prisoner can sue**

A convicted rapist accused of harassing a woman from prison with letters and phone calls was given permission to sue her for libel for writing to the police about his behaviour.....Page 1

**Beckett blind trust**

Margaret Beckett is receiving financial assistance from a blind trust set up before the election, despite a pledge by the Labour leadership to publicise the names of all its donors.....Page 2

**Spencer's offer**

Wounded by accusations of adultery and cruelty, Earl Spencer went on the offensive, revealing the divorce deal he has offered his estranged wife.....Page 3

**Missing millions**

City experts should be recruited to trace millions of pounds hidden by criminals. Sir Geoffrey Dear, an Inspector of Constabulary and a former Chief Constable, said.....Page 3

**Hunts scent defeat**

Pro-hunt campaigners accused opponents of "emotional blackmail" as they faced a resounding defeat in today's second reading vote in the Commons.....Page 7

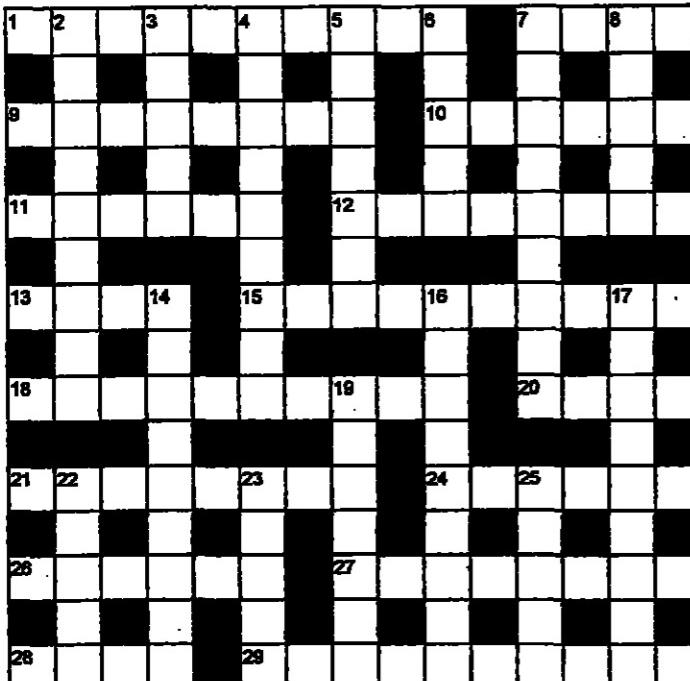
**ANC 'feared Winnie'**

Leading ANC members feared Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and her bodyguards and failed to end her Soweto reign of terror. Archbishop Desmond Tutu's Truth Commission was told.....Page 18

**Rock music at Hutchence funeral**

■ A distraught Paul Yates, cradling their 16-month daughter, said goodbye to Michael Hutchence — who died at the weekend aged 37 — at a moving and sombre but colourful funeral, which included rock music, in Sydney. Thousands of INXS fans stood outside and another 1,200 mourners had seats inside St Andrew's Cathedral.....Pages 1, 5

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,649



- ACROSS**
- Two articles of tableware seen in window (5,5).
  - Old car involved in pile-up? (4).
  - Revolutionary means of measuring progress in the US (8).
  - A possible approach with no going back? (3-3).
  - A high position in the church is (6).
  - Did eating mushroom become standard? (6).
  - Blonde female with distinctive appearance (4).
  - Popular demand for speedy action about leader of Serbian revolution (10).
  - Notice discrimination in judicial pronouncement (10).
  - Wrong-doing not recorded retrospectively (4).
  - Impractical fellow, perhaps (8).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,648  
ON THE PROWL W  
S O R P U P K E E P  
PRIMROSE G S R  
M E S C H O S S E T T I U  
A L S P I C E A W N  
B L I P D O T H E T R U C K  
I J U V E A N L  
L A U N D R Y G R I D D L E  
L I N E H L I R  
A U R H O S T E S S S A G S  
N A M C L U  
C O V E T A I L O O T  
C E R B L A I N I N D U N A T E  
O R B L A I N H R G E  
T O S S E E T H E A R T

Times Two Crossword, page 52



NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING  
Recycled paper made up  
36% of the raw material  
for UK newspapers in the  
second half of 1996



ANDREW CAMARA

Preview: Patricia Routledge's OAP detective is back. *Henry Wainwright Investigates* (BBC1, 9.30pm). Review: Matthew Bond sheds a tear for Flora from *Byker Grove*.....Pages 46, 47

**Ghosts of Labour Past**

Either a minimum wage does little harm, but little good; or it risks harming the very poorest, those with no job at all, while damaging the overall economy.....Page 23

**Open season**

Deployment of logic by supporters of hunting should be matched by a sensitivity to the concerns of their honest opponents.....Page 23

**Hague's gender gap**

If women had always voted the same way as men, Britain would have had many more Labour governments. The gender gap is crucial to the Tories.....Page 23

**MATTHEW PARRIS**

Bruce Anderson, the political editor of *The Spectator*, wrote *The Times* a courteous letter putting the case for decisive action to settle the Tory course at once in a Eurosceptic direction. If there are some who are reluctant to march, he said, it is better they leave now. His argument is powerful, rational and profoundly wise.....Page 22

**JOHN LLOYD**

Flexibility is one of the great words of the millennium's end. We know it is in some way right, as a signifier of the end of an era in which places were, for a time, known and in which classes were, though never static, defined.....Page 22

**YVETTE COOPER**

Safeguarding collieries is being portrayed as a hopelessly uneconomic thing to do.....Page 22

**Major-General Ian Campbell;**  
**Australian infantry commander;**  
**Shake Keane, jazz trumpeter;**  
**Mohammad-Ali Jamalzadeh,**  
**Iranian author; Jim Miller,**  
**businessman**.....Page 25

**Selection of Tory candidates;**  
**foxhunting debate; repression in**  
**Albania; clergy debts; radio for**  
**children**.....Page 23

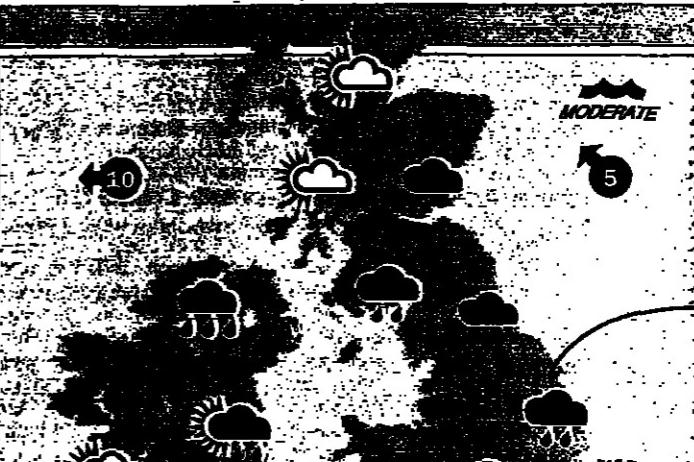
## TOMORROW

## IN THE TIMES

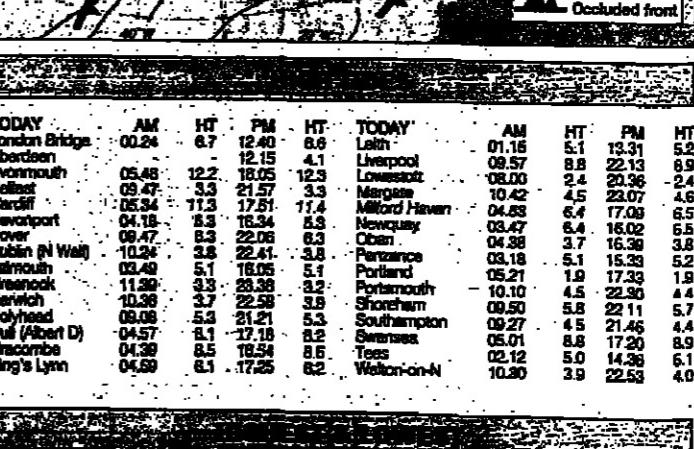
■ **JONATHAN MEADES**  
We must build high  
to save the  
countryside from  
the developers

■ **LAURA ASHLEY**  
The in-fighting  
that brought down  
the flower of  
English fashion

west Wind. Max 130 (SSF).  
■ Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Cumbria, Argyll: dull with outbreaks of rain. Fog over hills. Light southwest wind. Max 110 (SSP).  
■ Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney: mostly dry this morning, but mainly cloudy. Rain spreading from southwest later. Moderate southeast wind. Max 110 (SSP).  
■ Scotland: cloudy with drizzle rain for much of day. Max south to southeast wind. Max 110 (SSP).  
■ Cent S, Cent N England, Midlands, Channel Isles: dull and damp with some heavy rain in places clearing to sunshine and showers this afternoon. Light southwest, moderate. Mid. Max 100 (SSP).  
■ SW England, Wales, NW England Lakes, Iom, N Ireland: any early rain will clear to leave sunshine and showers. Light



Changes to chart below from noon: high H will collapse slowly and drift northeast. Low N will remain slow-moving and fill



TODAY AM HT PM HT TODAY AM HT PM HT

10am Bridge 0.02 6.1 12.1 17.1 21.5 1.1 13.31 8.2

Aberdeen 0.548 12.2 16.05 21.5 21.5 1.1 13.31 8.2

Avalmouth 0.548 12.2 16.05 21.5 21.5 1.1 13.31 8.2

Cardiff 0.548 12.2 16.05 21.5 21.5 1.1 13.31 8.2

Dover 0.548 12.2 16.05 21.5 21.5 1.1 13.31 8.2

Dublin (N Wall) 10.24\* 3.8 22.41 1.1 13.31 8.2

Falmouth 0.548 12.2 16.05 21.5 21.5 1.1 13.31 8.2

Glasgow 0.548 12.2 16.05 21.5 21.5 1.1 13.31 8.2

London 0.548 12.2 16.05 21.5 21.5 1.1 13.31 8.2

Madrid 0.548 12.2 16.05 21.5 21.5 1.1 13.31 8.2

Malaga 0.548 12.2 16.05 21.5 21.5 1.1 13.31 8.2

Paris 0.548 12.2 16.05 21.5 21.5 1.1 13.31 8.2

Portsmouth 0.548 12.2 16.05 21.5 21.5 1.1 13.31 8.2

Rome 0.548 12.2 16.05 21.5 21.5 1.1 13.31 8.2

Sheffield 0.548 12.2 16.05 21.5 21.5 1.1 13.31 8.2

Southampton 0.548 12.2 16.05 21.5 21.5 1.1 13.31 8.2

Swindon 0.548 12.2 16.05 21.5 21.5 1.1 13.31 8.2

Toronto 0.548 12.2 16.05 21.5 21.5 1.1 13.31 8.2

Truro 0.548 12.2 16.05 21.5 21.5 1.1 13.31 8.2

Wales 0.548 12.2 16.05 21.5 21.5 1.1 13.31 8.2

Weymouth 0.548 12.2 16.05 21.5 21.5 1.1 13.31 8.2

Winnipeg 0.548 12.2 16.05 21.5 21.5 1.1 13.31 8.2

Yarmouth 0.548 12.2 16.05 21.5 21.5 1.1 13.31 8.2

Zurich 0.548 12.2 16.05 21.5 21.5 1.1 13.31 8.2

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Guernsey, 14C (SSP); lowest day temp: Lewis, Shetland Islands, 6C (SSP); highest rainfall: Aberdeen, 1.05in; highest sunshine: Jersey, 21C.

Total number of lives saved so far this year: 1,210

Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year: 4,993

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£10

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Reg. Charity No. 309402

# THE TIMES



INSIDE  
SECTION  
**2**  
TODAY

## BUSINESS

Trade department inquiry into the Guinness affair  
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## ARTS

Caitlin Moran writes the last rites over Britpop  
**PAGES 38-40**

## SPORT

Dalton navigates troubled waters entering Fremantle  
**PAGES 46-52**

**TELEVISION  
AND  
RADIO  
PAGES  
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 28 1997

## BZW sale leaves Barclays with £1bn hangover

By JASON NISSE



Taylor: £150m for CSFB  
**Brown seeks US support for EMU**

FROM OLIVER AUGUST  
IN NEW YORK

GORDON BROWN will make his first trip to Wall Street as Chancellor next month in an attempt to win support from the New York financial community for his plans to take Britain into EMU.

Mr Brown is aiming to squash growing scepticism in some parts of the American business community that could undermine the sterling exchange rate in the run up to EMU entry.

In a speech to the British-American Chamber of Commerce in New York next Friday he will outline "the Government's preparations for EMU and the start of a single currency within the European Union".

UK officials in New York said the attitude of most US businesses to EMU was positive, but they have been shaken by a number of attacks on the single currency in recent weeks. The Wall Street visit by Mr Brown is aimed at tipping American Euro-scepticism in the butt.

Martin Feldstein, a professor of Economics at Harvard, said in the latest issue of the influential *Foreign Affairs* periodical that monetary and political union would make another war in Europe more likely, not less. He wrote: "The American experience with the secession of the South may contain some lessons about the dangers of a treaty or constitution that has no exit."

Wall Street has for years been encouraging Europe to proceed with monetary union. The major US banks expected that EMU will give them new opportunities to earn fees. To gain prime time television coverage of the visit top US spin doctors will advise Mr Brown's advisers, among them Burson-Marsteller, a Wall Street public relations company.

## DTI doubted Mayhew on Guinness evidence

By PAUL DURMAN

INSPECTORS for the Department of Trade and Industry investigating Guinness's takeover of Distillers did not believe some of the evidence they received from David Mayhew, a senior partner in Cazenove, the most blue-blooded of City stockbrokers.

In the much-delayed report into Guinness's £2 billion takeover of Distillers in 1986, released yesterday, David Donaldson, QC, and Ian Watt also question Mr Mayhew's judgment in tactics he used to help Guinness to defeat Argyll, the rival bidder in the takeover battle.

This forms part of the DTI inspectors' damning indictment of the integrity of the City. In the report, which is much watered down from interim drafts that circulated the City a few years ago, the inspectors say these features "shine disturbingly through": "Firstly, the cynical disregard

of laws and regulations; secondly, the cavalier misuse of company money; thirdly, a contempt for truth and common honesty: all these in a part of the City which was thought respectable."

In taking evidence, the inspectors "were faced constantly with untruthful, incomplete and sharply conflicting testimony".

The evidence of Mr Mayhew, who once faced a criminal prosecution for his role in the Guinness affair, is brought into question over the extent of Cazenove's freedom to buy £25 million of Guinness shares on behalf of J Rothschild Holdings, an investment firm headed by Lord Rothschild. The inspectors say the account from Rothschild's executives "is closer to the true picture".

"Cazenove were in practice masters of a formidable reserve of purchase power entrusted to them by JRH," the report says. JRH spent £28.7 million on Guinness shares.



The harshest criticism is reserved for Ernest Saunders, then Guinness's chief executive



David Mayhew's judgment in tactics used during the battle is questioned by the report

## Independent taxing of couples may end

By CAROLINE MERRELL AND ALASDAIR MURRAY

INDEPENDENT tax treatment of husband and wife is threatened under plans unveiled by the Chancellor this week for reforming the tax and benefit regime.

It could herald a return to a system where husbands and wives are treated as one-income unit for taxation.

However, a Treasury spokesman said the Government had no set plans to end independent assessment of income tax implementation of the new scheme was still under discussion and full details would not be ready until the spring Budget. "We are aiming to make the benefits more work-oriented, but the test is whether it is effective and efficient," he said.

Commentary, page 29

## UK 'will ride out Far East turmoil'

By ALASDAIR MURRAY AND RICHARD MILES

EDDIE GEORGE, the Governor of the Bank of England, yesterday expressed confidence that the UK would ride out the crisis in the financial markets in the Far East and that Japan would be able to restore confidence to its battered banking sector.

Mr George admitted there was a risk that the UK economy could be hit by damaging fallout from the problems in Japan and South Korea, but he said both countries appeared to be taking positive action.

He added: "Japan has the capacity to resolve its own problems. In the last couple of weeks the Government has shown it is prepared to let banks go into liquidation and

stand behind their liabilities." Yasuda, the Japanese trust bank whose credit rating was downgraded earlier this week, said yesterday that it would shed nearly 600 jobs as part of a restructuring plan.

The bank said it planned to raise Y100 billion (£500 million) of capital through the issue of new shares and the sale of its head office. It will also transfer its brokerage business to Fuji Securities.

Yamaichi, the broker that collapsed under £15 billion of debt, has appointed of DJL Phoenix, a specialist corporate finance adviser, to find a buyer.

## Battle asks EU to refer Redland bid

By CHRIS AYRES

JOHN BATTLE, Minister for Science, Energy and Industry, yesterday asked the European Commission to refer Lafarge's £1.8 billion agreed takeover bid for Redland, the building materials group, to the UK authorities.

Analysts were initially baffled by Mr Battle's statement, as Redland's share of the ready-mix concrete market is known to be only about 10 per cent. Shares in the company dipped slightly in the morning, but closed 2½ p up at 342 p as confidence in the deal grew.

Lafarge yesterday saw acceptances for its bid, which increased on Wednesday to 81.8 million to gain a recommendation, pass 50 per cent of Redland's shares, and

disqualification proceedings and continue working in the City. However, the cloud over him prevented Mr Gunn joining the board of Chelsea Village, the AIM-listed group that owns Chelsea, the Premiership football club.

The BZW director who led the team that advised B&C has long since left the bank. Richard Heley joined Hill Samuel in the early 1990s and is now working at Charterhouse, the merchant bank. He is expected to be a key witness if the case comes to court.

John Soden, a partner at Price Waterhouse and administrator of

Atlantic, said the case involved more than 30 parties in a myriad of cross action with the total liabilities now standing at more than £1 billion. BZW is one of the largest defendants in the case and its liability, if proven, could be more than £200 million.

The Atlantic case follows HSBC

Holding being forced to pay £176 million to the creditors of B&C in a

action that resulted from its pur-

chase of Midland Bank.

Samuel Montagu, the merchant

banking arm of Midland, has

advised Quadrex, a financial ser-

vices group, on a deal with B&C.

## BUSINESS TODAY

### STOCK MARKET

FTSE 100 ... 4888.0 ... 3.20 (-0.06%)

FTSE All Share ... 2295.57 ... 22.57 (+0.07%)

Nikkei ... 16602.30 ... 1567.65 (-9.07%)

New York: Dow Jones ... Closed

### US RATE

Federal Funds ... Closed

### EURO LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank ... 7.7% ... (7.7%)

Libor long gilt future (Dec) ... 115.5% ... (118.5%)

### STERLING

New York: Sterling ... Closed (1.6735)

Singapore: Sterling ... 1.6745 (1.6710)

DM ... 2.9541 (2.9398)

FF ... 9.8858 (9.8409)

Swiss franc ... 2.1251 (2.1254)

S Index ... 104.4 (104.1)

### US \$/UK POUND

London: DM ... Closed (1.7585)

FF ... - (5.9025)

Swiss ... - (11.09)

S Index ... 107.2 (107.2)

Tokyo close Yen 127.10

### NORTH SEA OIL

Brut 15-day (Feb) ... \$18.70 (\$18.50)

### GOLD

London close ... \$295.00 (\$295.00)

\* denotes midday trading price

### Chief's apology

George Mathewson, chief executive of Royal Bank of Scotland, apologised to customers for the problems of Tesco savings accounts, which RBS administers in a joint venture.

Another main plank of Lord Sterling's strategy will come to fruition next month when Bovis Homes is floated on the stock market, although latest indications suggest that the mooted £250 million valuation may be optimistic.

There have also been suggestions that P&O might withdraw from bulk shipping altogether, but bringing in a joint-venture partner will satisfy concerns about the amount of investment that the business swallows. The agreement with the unnamed partner will mean that P&O no longer has to pump any of its own capital into the business.

Another main plank of Lord Sterling's strategy will come to fruition next month when Bovis Homes is floated on the stock market, although latest indications suggest that the mooted £250 million valuation may be optimistic.

There have also been suggestions that P&O is close to selling the Arndale shopping centre, in Manchester, to Prudential for about £300 million.

Page 29, Tempus 30

### Tribunal clash

The battle between Sir Desmond Pitcher, outgoing chairman of United Utilities, and Brian Staples, the chief executive he ousted in the summer, is set to be replayed next month at a Manchester industrial tribunal.

Page 28

"There's some pizzazz to this car, like the people who designed it care. For keen drivers there, the Primera is number one."

SHOCK HORROR A KID WORD FROM JEREMY...

IT'S A DRIVER'S CAR. SO DRIVE IT. THE NEW PRIMERA

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# Round two of Staples and Pitcher fight

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE dispute between Sir Desmond Pitcher, outgoing chairman of United Utilities, and Brian Staples, the chief executive he ousted in the summer, is set to be replayed next month at a Manchester industrial tribunal.

Derek Green, the new chief executive, said the company intended to fight vigorously the claims of unfair dismissal from Mr Staples, who is to become chief executive of Arney in the new year.

Mr Staples is claiming more than £1 million in compensation. Mr Green said: "The suggestion that Brian's departure was the result of a personality clash with Desmond Pitcher was a nonsense."

Mr Staples was sacked in July and immediately instructed his lawyers to tackle United. The controversy led to the early retirement of Sir Desmond. After institutional pressure Sir Desmond said that he will leave next spring instead of his preferred date of 2000.

A severance package for Sir Desmond, who earns

£310,000 a year, is now being prepared.

Mr Green, who has conducted a review of United Utilities' businesses, yesterday said that the company would make £40 million in additional savings by 1999 through extra efficiencies from the fusion of the electricity and water businesses.

He has jettisoned ambitious plans laid by Mr Staples for a full-blown move into the competitive electricity market.

United has still to sign key licence agreements for the opening of competition in the domestic market next April. It is complaining to the regulator of a lack of clarity.

The company lifted pre-tax profits for the six months to September 30 to £23.6 million. Its interim dividend was increased 9.7 per cent to 13.16p. Sir Desmond stressed that United would moderate dividend increases in order to "underpin the sustainability of the dividend in the longer term."

Water customers are to get a 6.50p rebate next year.



Stuart Lloyd, chief executive of Sutcliffe Speakman, saw pre-tax profits slip from £2.6 million to £2.5 million in the half year to September. Earnings slipped from 1.35p to 1.25p but the dividend rose from 0.43p to 0.50p.

## Yorkshire Water defiant over payout

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

YORKSHIRE WATER, which is still trying to redeem its reputation after its performance in the 1995 drought, yesterday defied the regulator's warnings over high dividends by lifting its interim payment 20 per cent. But it claimed that it had struck a better balance between shareholders and customers.

Brandon Gough, chairman, said the six months to September 30 had produced "a useful, healthy but not excessive increase in profits but underpinned by some good improvements in customer service". Kevin Bond, chief executive, said the dividend had been raised by 20 per cent after a commitment to give real growth of up to 8 per cent, and after a share buyback had increased returns. Homes cut off for more than 12 hours

dropped to 668 in the six months compared with 2,274 a year ago.

Pre-tax profits were £105.4 million, up from £103.4 million. The interim dividend, due January 23, was set at 6.15p. □ Wesser Water's pre-tax profits were trimmed by the costs of buying back some of its shares last year. Pre-tax profits for the six months to September 30 fell 4.5 per cent to £72.1 million. An interim of 6.5p, up 14 per cent, is due April 6.

BS SO  
Tesco a

## Asia turmoil may hit us, says Euromoney

SHARES in Euromoney Publications, the publishing group that recently bought *Institutional Investor* in the United States for £25 million, dropped by 35p, to £16.85, after the company gave warning that the turmoil in Asian markets could affect its next year's results.

Richard Ensor, the managing director of Euromoney, said: "This is not a profits warning. We do not make any forecasts. It was a pretty obvious statement to make, we have no idea how the Asian market is going to pan out. All our products are capable of switching focus to other parts of the world."

The statement from Euromoney came as the company reported a 19 per cent increase in its pre-tax profits for the year to September 30, rising from £25.5 million to £30.3 million, and significantly above the City's expectations. Turnover was up by 25 per cent, from £104 million to £131 million, and earnings per share were up by 19 per cent, from 75.95p to 90.25p. A final dividend of 33p, rising from 32p, will be paid on January 26, taking the total dividend for the year to 51p, increased from 46p.

Tempus, page 30

## Directors' pay up 8.6%

DIRECTORS last year got an average 8.6 per cent more in pay packages than in 1995. According to Monks Partnership, the remuneration consultancy, basic salaries rose 6.3 per cent. For financial businesses the basic rise was 7.4 per cent, while the full package rose 11.3 per cent. For property companies the basic increase was 4.1 per cent, while total earnings jumped 10.3 per cent. In industrial and commercial companies the rises were 6.8 per and 7.6 per cent. Twelve board directors earned more than £1 million, compared with seven the previous year.

## Licence for Atlantic

THE Atlantic Telecom Group said yesterday that it has received Government approval in principle for a fixed radio telecommunications licence to run services throughout the UK. Atlantic launched a radio telecommunications service in Glasgow last year and says that 10,000 lines are either already installed or are about to be installed. The company plans to offer services to homes and business premises in a number of areas of England without requiring it, in principle, to incur the cost of building a national network.

## Bristol press group up

BRISTOL UNITED PRESS, the regional newspaper group that last month bought Newsquest's Wessex newspapers subsidiary for £35 million, lifted pre-tax profits by 63 per cent in the half year to September 30, from £4.2 million to £6.9 million. Total sales were £33.7 million, up 8 per cent from £31.1 million. Earnings per share were up 78 per cent, from 10.81p to 19.24p. An interim dividend of 6p, up from 5.25p, is due on January 27. The company said that Wessex, which owns eleven titles, had been successfully integrated into the group.

## I&S hits Caledonia

INTERIM pre-tax profits at Caledonia Investments declined £1.2 million to £22.4 million after the poor performance at Ivory & Sime, the Edinburgh fund manager, and last year's sale of Bristol Helicopters. The diversified trading and investments company agreed to sell two thirds of its 29 per cent stake in Ivory & Sime to Friends Provident, which is taking over the company. Earnings per share dipped from 17.7p to 17p. The company declared an interim dividend of 6.5p, up 0.3p.

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### LEGAL NOTICES

## ASSOCIATED GAS SUPPLIES LIMITED

### Terms and Conditions

These Terms and Conditions are incorporated into your Agreement and sets out the basis upon which we will supply you or upon which we will be deemed to supply you as described under the heading "Deemed Contracts" below. The Agreement is between AGAS and yourself. The Agreement and supply will start on the Supply Date which we will confirm to you in writing.

### 1. Payment

Your gas bill will be based on an estimate which will then be reconciled whenever a meter reading is taken. You must pay for any gas supplied to your premises according to the chosen payment method and frequency and at the prevailing price set out in the Price Schedule which forms part of the Agreement. You must also pay us the amount shown in our published Deemed Customer Price Schedule less the cost of our gas used outside the terms of the Agreement or at any time the Agreement is not in force together with any costs we incur due to such use. Payment dates will be indicated on the bill. When any payment from you is overdue by at least 28 days from the date of written demand, we may recover this from you and stop you from changing to a different supplier. The amounts of gas supplied will be calculated according to the requirements of the law.

### 2. The Meter

You must tell us immediately if the meter is replaced or modified. If it is a prepayment meter you must tell us when it needs emptying or is faulty. If the prepayment meter fails to work we will not be liable for non-supply unless it is due to our negligence. You must ensure that no part of the meter including the seal or any attached notice is misstated or removed.

An estimate may be used if the meter is faulty. We will charge you for any costs which may arise should you take gas except through the meter. You agree to allow reasonable access (on suitable notice) to ourselves and anyone else who can identify themselves and who reasonably needs access to read the meter or in connection with the supply generally.

### 3. Liability

We including anyone who works for us will not be liable to you for any loss of use, profits, contracts, production or revenue or for increased cost of working or business interruption however caused.

### 4. Non-Supply

If we cannot comply with the Agreement for any reason beyond our control or we cannot supply you owing to works, repair, maintenance or safety reasons, then we will not be in breach of the Agreement. Where a direction is given to us under section 21(1)(b) of the Energy Act 1976 (emergencies) we are permitted to discontinue or restrict the gas supply and you must stop or restrict the use of gas when we ask you to.

### 5. Termination

The Agreement will continue until validly terminated on 28 days advance written notice to take effect from when a new and valid agreement is reached between ourselves (or another supplier) and either you or anyone else at your premises or from when the premises are disconnected because you no longer need a supply. If you are moving house it may be terminated in 48 hours advance notice to take effect from the day you either leave or cease to own the premises otherwise you must pay us for gas used until the meter is next read, another customer takes over the supply or the 28th day from when you actually give us notice whichever is the earlier. The Agreement will terminate automatically at any time another supplier is required by law to supply your premises. If either party commits a significant breach of the Agreement the other may terminate (without affecting any existing rights or obligations of either Party) on reasonable notice.

### 6. Safety

Anything done or not done by ourselves or the company which owns the pipes connected to your premises in dealing with an emergency or a safety issue will not be in breach of the Agreement.

### 7. General

We may vary the Agreement. If there are any significant changes we will notify you of any variations which are to your serious disadvantage and, provided you terminate (on 21 days advance written notice to us within 14 days of notifying you), you will not be bound by the variations in the interim. You must not sign a gas supply agreement with more than one supplier at any one time. The Agreement represents the entire agreement between us and supersedes anything previously said, done or implied which adds to or conflicts with it.

### 8. Deemed Contracts

If you use our gas at any time the Agreement is not in force or in other cases provided for by law the above terms and conditions will still apply (with any necessary changes) but they will constitute a Deemed Contract of the kind required by our licence. The need to give us 28 days notice will not apply although if you are moving out you will still need to tell us 48 hours in advance (or be liable for charges as above). Instead, the Deemed Contract will terminate automatically at any time another supplier is required by law to supply your premises. If either party commits a significant breach of the Agreement the other may terminate (without affecting any existing rights or obligations of either Party) on reasonable notice.

### 9. Standard Tariff

Copyright Associated Gas Supplies Limited  
AGAS Domestic Customer Price Schedule  
Effective 28th November 1997

### Standard Tariff (where applicable)

Pence per kWh  
Abbeyleeds Haydon  
Wick Swindon 1.367p/kWh  
All other sites 1.412p/kWh

### Standing Charge

Abbeyleeds Haydon  
Wick Swindon 9.50p/day  
All other sites 8.57p/day

### All prices are exclusive of VAT which will be added at the applicable rate.

Standard Tariff payments will be paid quarterly. Unless existing arrangements (e.g. Direct Debit) have been permitted to remain in place all payments due under the Deemed Contract will also be due quarterly and supply will be at the Standard Tariff until further notice.

### PG Adm

for and on behalf of Associated Gas Supplies Limited  
28th November 1997  
Issue 1.0

Associated Gas Supplies Limited  
Deemed Customer Contract Scheme  
Recitals

(A) Pursuant to paragraph 8 of Schedule 2 to the Gas Act 1986 ("the Act") Associated Gas Supplies Limited ("AGAS") is required to make a Scheme ("the Scheme") for determining the terms and conditions which are to be incorporated into the contracts which are by virtue of paragraph 8(1) or 8(2) of Schedule 2 to the Act deemed to be made by AGAS with consumers in the circumstances set out in those paragraphs.

(B) This document constitutes the Scheme mentioned in Recital A above which Scheme shall take effect on the Effective Date.

(C) This Scheme may be amended from time to time by AGAS subject to the provisions of the gas suppliers licence deemed to have been granted (pursuant to Section 7(1) of the Act) to AGAS on 1st March 1995.

### 1. Interpretation

In this Scheme  
1.1 "Deemed Contract" shall mean the contract deemed to be created by this Scheme.  
1.2 "Deemed Customer" shall mean, jointly or severally, any consumer or consumer who takes a supply in the circumstances set out in paragraphs 8(1) or 8(2) of Schedule 2B save that this shall not apply to any consumer supplied with gas to particular premises at a rate which is reasonably expected to exceed 2,000 units per year.

### 2. The Scheme

2.1 AGAS hereby determines that all Deemed Customers shall be supplied by virtue of this Scheme on the terms and conditions set out in Schedule 1 (the Deemed Customer Conditions) and Schedule 2 (the Deemed Customer Price Schedule) hereto.

### Deemed Customer Terms and Conditions

These Terms and Conditions are incorporated into your Agreement and sets out the basis upon which we will supply you or upon which we will be deemed to supply you as described under the heading "Deemed Contracts" below. The Agreement is between AGAS and yourself. The Agreement and supply will start on the Supply Date which we will confirm to you in writing.

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An estimate may be used if the meter is faulty. We will charge you for any costs which may arise should you take gas except through the meter. You agree to allow reasonable access (on suitable notice) to ourselves and anyone else who can identify themselves and who reasonably needs access to read the meter or in connection with the supply generally.

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We including anyone who works for us will not be liable to you for any loss of use, profits, contracts, production or revenue or for increased cost of working or business interruption however caused.

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If we cannot comply with the Agreement for any reason beyond our control or we cannot supply you owing to works, repair, maintenance or safety reasons, then we will not be in breach of the Agreement. Where a direction is given to us under section 21(1)(b) of the Energy Act 1976 (emergencies) we are permitted to discontinue or restrict the gas supply and you must stop or restrict the use of gas when we ask you to.

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### 8. Deemed Contracts

If you use our gas at any time the Agreement is not in force or in other cases provided for by law the above terms and conditions will still apply (with any necessary changes) but they will constitute a Deemed Contract of the kind required by our licence. The need to give us 28 days notice will not apply although if you are moving out you will still need to tell us 48 hours in advance (or be liable for charges as above). Instead, the Deemed Contract will continue in force until we or another supplier begins to supply you under a written contract. If the meter was not read before you began using our gas under the Deemed Contract your charges for the unmet period or until the supply ceases (if this is before the meter is first read after your supply began) will be based on a reasonable estimate of what your premises would have consumed. Variations to the Deemed Contract will take effect when published.

### 9. Standard Tariff

DIRECT DEBIT TARIFF  
(where applicable)  
Pence per kWh  
Abbeyleeds Haydon  
Wick Swindon 1.367p/kWh  
All other sites 1.412p/kWh</



## STOCK MARKET

## MICHAEL COOPER

Stock Market Writer  
of the Year

# Vodafone takeover talk lifts shares to new high

**T**HIS saying that price tells all is one often quoted by City brokers, in which case we should see a bid any day now for Vodafone, Britain's biggest mobile phone operator.

The price climbed a further 13p to an all-time high of 394p — stretching its lead during the past couple of weeks to 47p — amid further heavy turnover that saw almost eight million shares change hands. The group now commands a price tag of £1.2 billion.

There has been talk for some weeks about a bid from American Telephone & Telegraph, which is said to be anxious to gain a foothold in the European mobile phone market. Vodafone may prove to be the ideal vehicle, unlike Cellnet, its nearest rival owned jointly by BT, down 61p at 456p, and Securicor, up 51p at 275p. Other names may also be in the frame. Brokers say Lehman Brothers, the US securities firm, has been a big buyer of the stock.

A few weeks ago Vodafone, under Chris Gent, chief executive, announced a series of price cuts in an attempt to stoke up the competitive pressures for its rivals. Brokers say the recent rise appears to be discounting a lot.

Share prices generally enjoyed an early mark-up with the help of another positive performance overnight in Tokyo. But with Wall Street closed for the Thanksgiving Day celebrations, prices in London failed to hold on to their early lead and the FTSE 100 index closed 2.2 down at 4,889.0. Turnover was on the low side, with 689 million shares traded, and this was swollen by 10 million shares traded in Rerlenland after the increased terms from Lafarge. Redland firmed 21p to 342p, unperturbed by a Government call to the European Commission to refer part of the £1.8 billion bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

British Aerospace climbed 30p to 16.28 after the German Government finally gave the go-ahead to the £40 billion European fighter project. BAE will supply the wings and part of the fuselage. Other beneficiaries include Rolls-Royce, 2p easier at 234p, which will help to make the engines and GEC, 31p cheaper at 393.1p, involved in supplying the aircraft's electronic systems. BAE is also expected to benefit soon from a Government decision.



Chris Gent, of Vodafone, a further 13p higher at 394p

to allow foreign share ownership to rise from 29.9 per cent to around 40 per cent.

The falling oil price is likely to make life difficult for the oil companies. But Shell, down 6p at 412p, also had to contend with the suggestion from BZW that clients should switch into rival BP, 4p better at 812p.

Zeneca continued to make headway with a rise of 69p to £18.96 as Dresdner Kleinwort

Benson told clients to switch out of Glaxo Wellcome, 2p lighter at 13.78.

Earlier this week Zeneca, Zeneca's migraine pill was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration. Word is the group is now looking for a partner in the US with which to market the drug. Zeneca calculates that 23 million Americans suffer from migraine and that the market for

Zomig could be worth £1.5 billion within the next few years.

Meanwhile, British Biotech advanced 7p to 117.1p, fuelled by claims that Zeneca is poised to make a bid.

British Biotech currently carries a price tag of £725 million. Hillsdown fell 5p to 157p as several brokers downgraded their profit forecasts from £165 million to £158 million. The move has been blamed on weakening food prices. But Fairview, its housebuilding arm, continues to do well as does its furniture business.

News of a bid approach lifted Neepend 8p to 391.1p. The group is also poised to sell a piece of land for £1 million currently on the books at £150,000. But the engineer warned shareholders that final profit would fall short of last year's £1.61 million.

Courtaulds rose 61p to 276.1p after HSB James Capel, the broker, made some encouraging noises and set a target price for the shares of 385p. It follows close on the heels of the group's acquisition of a German protective coatings business.

Tetra Holdings made an encouraging debut after a placing of shares by HSBC James Capel at 160p. The computer software specialist saw its price touch a peak of 172.1p before settling at 171p, a premium of 11p.

Also making its debut was Seacope Shipping, which enjoyed a modest premium after a placing by Bell Lawrie White, the broker, at 250p. The shares closed 5p dearer at 255p.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** Bond prices in London drifted lower, along with other European markets. The continuing rally in Japan overnight prompted a move away from fixed interest back into equities.

The absence of any inspiration from US Treasury bonds also kept investors sidelined for much of the day. They await testimony from Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, to the Treasury select committee.

In the futures pit the December series of the long gilt traded 1.93p lower at 118.19p in moderate trading.

In long Treasury 8 per cent 2021 fell 1.92 to 118.17p while among shorter dated issues Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was 1.7p lower at 100.02p.

□ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street was closed for Thanksgiving.

But this lull in activity is likely to prove short-lived. David Hudson at Credit Lyonnais Laing says: "We know the banks and build-

ing societies are desperate to snap up the life assurers." But he gives warning that any potential bidder will have to pay through the nose for the business.

"Take Legal & General as an example, the proper price to pay for the company is around 420p. But if anyone wants to bid, they are going to have to pay over 500p and this week L&G directors have been selling stock."

Hudson says the same can be said of the rest of the sector. "They are all overpriced and overhyped," he asserts.

For the first time in 15 years there was a pause for breath among the life assurance companies having seen their share prices race ahead sharply this week on the back of a flurry of revised bid speculation. Takeover favourite London & Manchester retreated 13p to 501p, while falls were also recorded in Legal & General, 10p to 508p, Norwich Union, 5p to 363p, and Prudential Corporation, 5p to 653p.

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# Santa Gordon in conflict with Ebenezer Brown

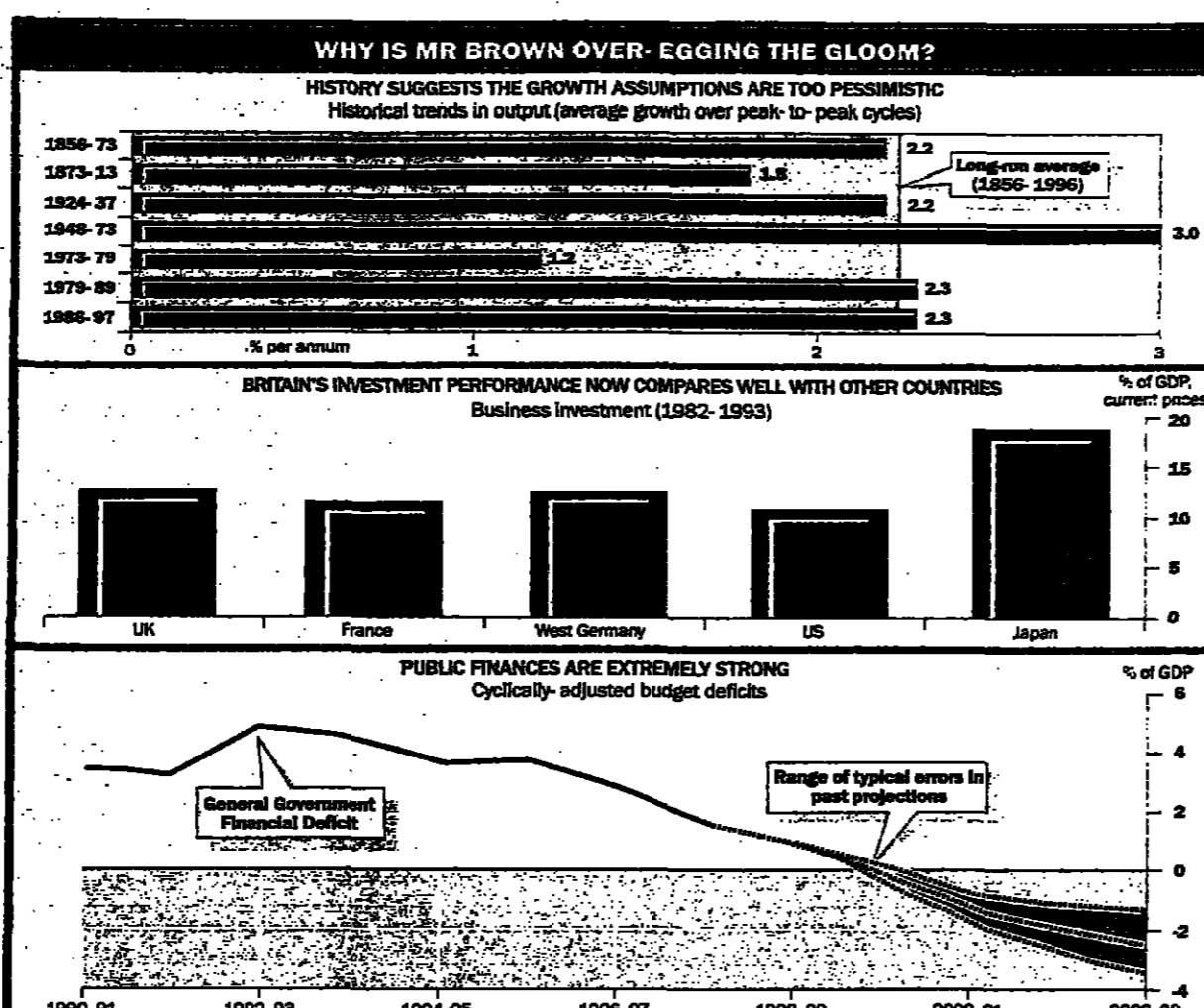
The Treasury's view of inflation is sharply at odds with that of the Bank

**G**ordon Brown must have been delighted by the reaction to his mini-Budget. Nothing could be more congenial to the spin doctors, especially in a week of rebellions over cuts in welfare benefits for the disabled and single parents, than cartoons of a jolly Chancellor in a Santa hat, backed up by TV clips of children in playgroups and pensioners in front of gas fires.

Most importantly, this trivialisation was remarkably successful in distracting attention from the mini-Budget's main point. This was, as usual, to be found in the small print of the Budget documents relating to the Treasury's fiscal forecasts and economic assumptions, was far more important than rag-bag of minor changes in taxation and welfare policy which dominated his speech. Before going on to discuss these, one of the spending measures does deserve special attention: the decision to throw away £400 million (enough to finance all the disputed benefits for single parents) on an indiscriminate "Christmas heating" handout to all pensioners, regardless of their means. It is hard to improve the comment of Andrew Dilnot, director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies. Already, he noted, the Government had turned its new autumn pre-Budget report "into just another occasion each year when the Chancellor feels obliged to hand out brightly coloured lollipops to MPs and the popular press".

Now let us turn to the more serious issues. Two, in particular, are worth noting. First, the Chancellor's assumptions about the economy's long-term growth potential and about the lowest sustainable rate of unemployment are both very pessimistic. Secondly, even on the basis of the Treasury's very cautious assumptions about growth and employment, a dramatic reduction in public borrowing appears to be on the cards in the years leading up to the next election — a reduction which the Chancellor preferred to gloss over in his presentation.

Focusing first on the economic assumptions, the Treasury believes that Britain's long-term sustainable growth rate is only 2.25 per cent, despite the fact that growth has averaged 2.5 per cent in the 50 years since 1947 and that the average growth rate in the period of economic history most closely comparable to the present one — the 1950s and



1960s was over 3 per cent. To justify this pessimism about the underlying rate of productivity growth in the British economy, the Treasury has to go all the way back to the mid-19th century. Only thus can it produce a slice of economic history bad enough to generate an average growth rate of 2.25 per cent (see top chart). Unfortunately, the Treasury does not explain what relevance the age of the steam-driven handlooms might have to contemporary events.

The Treasury also assumes that the level of capacity use and of unemployment attained by the economy today are the best that can be sustained without forcing inflation to accelerate.

Despite this slowdown, which would imply unemployment rising again from the middle of next year, the Treasury believes that inflation will accelerate over the next 12 months. This disquieting forecast is sharply at odds with the view of the Bank of England, which this month predicted that inflation would decline through next year. It seems to take no account of events in Asia and the deflationary pressures even in the strong American economy. The Treasury's anxiety about inflation also sits oddly with its assumption that the pound will remain at about its present level throughout next year. If the Treasury is right, then heaven forbid what might happen to inflation should the pound fall sharply, as the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of

England until recently believed that it should.

All this alarm about inflation comes back to the Treasury's assumption that the economy has already hit its capacity limits and that unemployment has fallen to its lowest sustainable rate. What the Treasury does not point out, however, is that equally "authoritative" studies were suggesting three years ago that the NAIRU was 9 per cent or even higher — or that in America estimates of this supposedly stable level of unemployment have declined year by year from more than 8 per cent to around 4 per cent today. There are, of course, plenty of econometric studies which claim to show that the lowest sustainable rate of unemployment — also known as the "Non Accelerating Inflation Rate of Unemployment" or NAIRU — happens to be equal to the present unemployment rate, which the Treasury admits to be nearer 7 per cent, rather than the 5.1 per cent suggested by official figures.

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Even under its gloomy economic assumptions, the Treasury forecasts that the General Government Financial Deficit (a more accurate measure of deficits than the traditional PSBR) will disappear by 1999/2000 and will be replaced by a huge surplus in 2001/02, the last year of the present parliament. The size of this surplus depends on what decisions are made in the coming years on public spending. In the unlikely event that the new Government stuck, even beyond 1999, to the extremely tight long-range spending plans inherited from the Tories, the surplus would be 2.4 per cent of GDP, equivalent to £20 billion in today's money. If spending reverted to the 1.5

per cent real average growth rate of the past 20 years, the surplus would be only slightly smaller, at 1.6 per cent of GDP. And even if real public spending expanded by 2.25 per cent annually, in line with the economy's supposed trend growth rate, there would still be a surplus equivalent to 0.9 per cent of GDP — and rising in future years.

Imagine now what would happen if the economy actually grew faster than 2.25 per cent and if unemployment continued falling. The Treasury coffers would be overflowing from 1999 onwards. There would be scope for massive spending bonanzas and tax giveaways just before the next election. This is a prospect which the Chancellor and the Prime Minister must certainly relish, but they have to keep it quiet. The last thing they want is to arouse premature expectations — or to admit that the country's astoundingly strong public finances were actually inherited from the Tories. Far better to create the impression that all the extra money has been conjured up by the good stewardship of the Labour government — and then to surprise the voters with some really big lollipops just before the election. As for the disabled, the single parents, the universities, the hospitals and schools and all the other deserving supplicants to the Treasury — they will just have to suffer for a few more years for a more convenient point in the electoral cycle.

of Bath rugby football club who made a reported £170 million fortune from selling his greetings card firm. In every room the Priory has genuine old-fashioned 1930s and 1940s wireless sets, those old brown bakelite jobs that a few readers may remember from the days before the Japanese ruled the consumer electronics industry. But the sets have been carefully customised so none can receive Mr Branson's Virgin FM service. Brownsworld, it seems, cannot abide Chris Evans, the carrot-haired yob who does a come-on turn on Virgin every morning.

Tidey became briefly famous when he was kidnapped by the IRA in the early 1980s and freed after a gun battle. He showed remarkable courage during his ordeal, and great resilience thereafter. Some wonder if the money was not at least in part, ABF chairman Garry Weston's way of paying a tribute. Alas, Weston is notoriously secretive, and ABF was not returning calls yesterday.

MARTIN WALLER



● WHILE I have every sympathy for the employees of White Knight and three associated businesses where the DTI has just put in the official receiver, we can take some slight comfort from the collapse. White Knight and Sykes Corporate Recovery "provide insolvent advisory and related services to businesses in financial difficulty," says the DTI. The other two "provide debt avoidance and related services". Until they became casualties, I must assume, of the current economic boom.

## Radio ga-ga

A SPLENDID innovation at the Priory Hotel in Bath, owned by Andrew Brown-sword, the publicity-shy barker

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Man of steel

MIKE GRANT, head of the

## Mirror image

HELEN LIDDELL Economic Secretary to the Treasury, was at the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children the other day. Stalin's granny, as she is known to the pensions industry bosses, was giving a speech on pensions reform. Nothing like getting to them early, is there? But I have been forwarded a résumé of her career, as provided to the NSPCC by the Treasury to remind everyone who the guest speaker was. Helen Liddell was formerly at the Scottish Daily Record and took part in the successful

flotation of Mirror Group Newspapers, "it says. I suppose that's one way of putting it. Alternatively, Helen Liddell was one of the many sycophants who surrounded the late Robert Maxwell, took the Maxwell Shilling and crawled largely unscathed from the wreckage" might have done just as well. Quite a few of those around. I still remember the day Peter Jay tried to bully me into withdrawing something I wrote about him while he was part of the same entourage. But we mustn't reopen old wounds, must we?

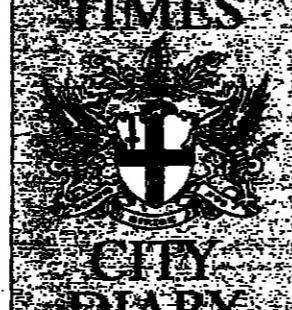
● WHILE I have every sympathy for the employees of White Knight and three associated businesses where the DTI has just put in the official receiver, we can take some slight comfort from the collapse. White Knight and Sykes Corporate Recovery "provide insolvent advisory and related services to businesses in financial difficulty," says the DTI. The other two "provide debt avoidance and related services". Until they became casualties, I must assume, of the current economic boom.

Man of steel

MIKE GRANT, head of the



"Dear Sir, in reply to your letter of 1987..."



Treasury team at Eurotunnel and the man who toured the globe talking to all those banks, has told the company he is leaving to do a three-month senior management course at Harvard. He has decided that the final adoption of the debt restructuring plan is a good time to make the break. He has no job to go to but will surely not be short of offers. Sir Alastair Morton, former chairman at Eurotunnel and not a man easily pleased, referred to Grant thus at Morton's last results briefing a year ago: "Mike Grant has a backbone and a heart of steel."

## Tidey sum

THE SUM of £2 million has been handed over by Associated British Foods to the director responsible for the sale of its Irish supermarket in May. Donald Tidey retired in June and has departed with this reward for his "exceptional" service, according to the accounts. The sale booked a

## BUSINESS LETTER

### Airport users want high-quality shops

From the Director of Corporate and Public Affairs of BAA

Sir, Sir Terence Conran has used letter columns of newspapers for some time to campaign about retailing at Heathrow, steadfastly refusing to acknowledge or accept the following facts:

First, we regularly interview hundreds of thousands of passengers to establish their views and needs; 90 per cent say they want to see high-quality shopping facilities at airports. Indeed, they want more.

Secondly, it is absurd to suggest that airports are really out-of-town shopping centres. The maximum space devoted to retail at any of our airports is 12 per cent. Of 55,888 people recently interviewed at Heathrow, only 89 were there purely to shop. And, frankly, they were misguided, because they could shop only landside, where inevitably there's a more limited range of shops than they could find in their local high street.

Thirdly, it is equally absurd to suggest that the taxpayer subsidises BAA via duty-free.

The opposite is the case. It is the retailing that underpins the £15 million BAA spends every day providing this country with its airport infrastructure; in no other country in the world is this level of infrastructure provided to the count-

try free of charge. In addition, BAA is worth more than £500 million to the Exchequer via taxes of various kinds, VAT, airport duty, etc — a huge contribution.

Finally, Sir Terence questions our prices. Only a year back the Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigated BAA's retailing and concluded: "BAA has ensured that prices are not higher than in high street outlets, and has increased choice, policies which, as shown in BAA's quality service monitor, are reflected in passengers' perception of genuinely good value for money. The general impression from this evidence is that passengers find the experience of passing through the three South East airports more enjoyable than was previously the case."

I don't know whether Sir Terence drinks Bells Whisky, but he would have paid £17.10 for a litre in the high street last week and obtained one at Terminal 1 for £8.30.

Sir Terence's notoriety ensures he obtains publicity for his opinions; let's hope the facts will receive equal attention.

Yours faithfully,

DES WILSON,

Director of Corporate and

Public Affairs,

BAA,

Corporate Office,

130 Wilton Road, SW1.

### Duty-bound to point out Heathrow chaos

From Ms Jayne Barnard

Sir, I had to laugh when Des Wilson, speaking on behalf of BAA, claimed last week that his organisation had been working hard to create more retailing, rather than less chaos, at international airports because that is "what airport customers want".

I have visited the UK twice in the last six weeks, each time fully intending to purchase duty-free gifts. Instead,

because of the lack of queue-control and other evidence of mismanagement at Heathrow, I found myself with only minutes to spare before departure. I never spent a cent. I must question whether this is what airport customers — let alone retailers — are seeking. Yours sincerely,

JAYNE BARNARD,

42 Eton Avenue,

London NW3.

jwbarn@staff.wm.edu.

Financing of airport facilities

From Mr Gerald Clark

Sir, Des Wilson of BAA suggests that national airports and infrastructure are provided free of charge on the back of airport retailing operations. Having used Heathrow twice this past week, purchasing services and expensive catering en route, does he really expect me to believe that there were no charge elements for airport facilities included in the base cost of my airline ticket?

Yours faithfully,

GERALD CLARK, 16 Mansel Street, Swansea.

### Happy to be identified as a nobody

From Mr Richard Griffith

Sir, Having read Sir Terence Conran's letter and Des Wilson's reply, the latter is a disgraceful and unjustified personal attack which reeks of guilt. I should be pleased to be identified as one of the nobodies to whom Des Wilson refers.

Yours anonymously,

RICHARD GRIFFITH,

Cuesta Vientos 31, Atalaya,

07811 Sant Vicent de la Cala, Ibiza, Spain.

### Business ambassadors

more funding for overseas trade fairs. The joint Foreign Office-DTI Export Forum study, initiated this summer, is aimed at improving assistance to smaller companies. Margaret Beckett has already announced the largest ever programme of support for UK exporters taking part in overseas trade fairs and outward missions in 1998-99.

Yours faithfully,

DEREK FATCHETT,

Minister of State for Foreign &

Commonwealth Affairs,

Foreign & Commonwealth Office, SW1.

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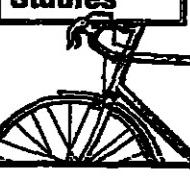
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## EDUCATION

## Are there too many appeals?

**John O'Leary on girls' schools' worries about A-level reviews**

Parents could have been forgiven for feeling themselves the villains of the piece at this week's Girls' Schools Association (GSA) conference, which ends in Bristol today.

The headlines have been captured by their supposed mollycoddling of children and their role in encouraging eating disorders because of alleged susceptibility to the arguments of food fetishists.

The predicted apprehension of parents about the impact of partnerships with state schools was also among the chief concerns of Stephen Byers, the Schools Minister.

Away from the conference platform, however, headmistresses were worrying about another trait of the assertive customer, which some think could distort the educational process. Parents have noted the publicity over the success of challenges to A-level grading, and are demanding a second opinion when results fall short of expectations.

Leading girls' schools are also calling for a review of A-level procedures because they fear that pressure from parents to challenge grades is creating an appeals culture that threatens the credibility of the examination.

The number of appeals has risen sharply: the Associated Examining Board (AEB) reports a 32 per cent increase this year alone. Although only schools can challenge a result, the high success rate has encouraged parents to demand appeals when university places are at stake.

GSA research found that its members had each challenged about 11 results last year. More than 350 of the 900 appeals covered by the survey were successful and only two led to grades being reduced.

London-based members of the GSA, which include several of the schools at the top of last week's league tables, have demanded action to reduce the number of appeals and to tighten up marking enough to cut the proportion of candidates being upgraded.

Clarissa Part, Headmistress



On your marks: more and more parents are challenging A-level results when university places are at stake

of Queenswood School, in Hatfield, Hertfordshire, said: "The volume of appeals is absolutely ridiculous and it is putting schools that cannot afford to appeal at an unfair disadvantage. If something is not done, the whole credibility of the examining system will be in question."

Rosanne Kindle, Headmistress of Dame Alice Harpur School, Bedford, who chairs the GSA's education committee, said: "Five years ago head teachers would have resisted a parent's request to appeal unless they were absolutely certain that an injustice had been done, but they cannot be confident that grades will be

confirmed. The uncertainty puts us in an invidious position, which needs to be addressed by the new qualifications authority."

Jacqueline Lang, the GSA's president and Headmistress of Walthamstow Hall, in Sevenoaks, Kent, said: "The problem is most serious in English, but it is evident in all the subjects which involve essay-writing and opinions. It has got to the point where some schools feel they might as well appeal about everything. You cannot have a situation where you assume that the results are wrong until proved otherwise."

As well as costing some

students a place at their chosen university, schools' results are underestimated in the league tables. Mrs Lang said: "A couple of extra grades can make all the difference to a school's score."

George Turnbull, a spokesman for the Assessment and Qualifications Alliance, which includes the AEB, said: "We are as concerned as the schools about the development of a culture in which appealing becomes the first port of call. The system was not designed to accommodate this sort of volume of inquiries. It was meant to be a safety net for people who had been expected to do very much better than

their results suggested."

Mr Turnbull said that most appeals could not result in grades being lowered, so schools felt they had nothing to lose. A levels were closely moderated, but some regrading was inevitable if papers were re-marked, especially in arts subjects.

Both Louise and her mother are angry that the process has cost her the chance of a Cambridge degree. "After two days of interviews and tests, I think the college had a far better picture of me than they could ever have got through A levels," Louise said. "Yet they were all that counted."

Sue Nichol said: "As a teacher, I see all the time how unpredictable A levels are in subjects like English, history and art. This is a typical example of the student suffering when she has done everything right."

John Rae on a scheme to persuade parents of the benefits of boarding

## When boarding is best



The film *Another Country* questioned the boarding idea

The police investigation into child pornography, which included raids on two boarding schools could not have been more badly timed for the Boarding Education Alliance (BEA).

Its birth this week passed almost unnoticed after it sensibly decided, in consultation with its public relations advisers, on a low-key launch.

The aim of the BEA, which represents 180 schools, is to sell boarding education in an increasingly sceptical and shrinking market. The number of boarders in independent schools has fallen by 28 per cent in the past ten years. Boarding education may not be in terminal decline but it is no longer the preferred option for middle-class parents. High fees, the overriding importance of academic qualifications and the stubborn image of dormitories where bullying goes unchecked, all help to convince parents that a good independent or maintained day school is the answer. Why spend £12,000 a year when you can have at least as good an education for half the price or for nothing?

If the BEA is to be successful, it will have to persuade parents not only that the stubborn images are outdated but that the boarding experience has something distinctive to offer.

The former should not be too difficult. There are boarding schools where change has been superficial - colour-coordinated curtains and bed-spreads - but most have undergone profound changes. It is no longer true, for example, that bullying is more likely to flourish in a boarding than day school; on the contrary, the tighter pastoral structure of a good boarding school, including access to a counsellor, probably means that bullying is picked up and dealt with more quickly.

Persuading parents of the special quality of boarding should not be difficult either. What is distinctive about boarding schools is not that they develop character and leadership but that they offer a fuller, more rounded education. In this they have three advantages over day schools:

time, the availability of staff and the excellence of facilities. If an important part of education is to discover what you have an aptitude for and to be encouraged in that aptitude, a good boarding school provides opportunities that few day schools can match. As one parent said: "Boarding maximises the children's potential".

Boarding schools also offer parents a wider choice. Small day schools are rare. Small boarding schools, such as St Anne's in Windermere or the even smaller New School in Dunkeld, that excel in helping the slower or "more fragile" child, are one of the strengths of the boarding sector. There are day schools, such as

George Watson's in Edinburgh, that successfully integrate pupils who need learning support, but most of the good learning support units are in boarding schools.

It is true that for academic excellence parents should look to the great urban day schools. The most successful school since A-level league tables were introduced is Winchester, a boarding school. Other boarding schools figure prominently in the upper reaches of these tables, despite having to fill beds as best they can.

Manchester Grammar School may have five candidates of equal ability for each place, but it is hard-pushed to compete academically with some of the girls' boarding schools that do not have that luxury. The less hectic academic atmosphere of these boarding schools can deliver A-level results that are arguably more impressive than those of the day schools.

**• The BEA National Information Line is 0171-888 8866. Dr Rae's book *Letters to Parents* will be published in January.**

## CASE STUDY

LOUISE NICHOL had set her heart on a place at Cambridge after surviving two days of tests and interviews at Girton College. All she needed were three top-grade A levels, John O'Leary writes.

Havant College, in Hampshire, was confident that she would get them, and the exams in English, French and Spanish went well. But her plans fell apart when the results arrived. She had dropped to a B in English, and Girton was oversubscribed with those who had met their targets. "It seemed grossly unfair," Louise said. "I had worked so hard to get the grades I thought I deserved. I was distraught when I got that B."

Both the college and Louise's mother Sue, a teacher at St Paul's School, London, were so convinced that the grade was wrong that they launched an immediate appeal. The Associated Examining Board agreed, but the amended result took eight weeks to come through, by which time Louise had started a languages degree at University College London.

Girton offered a place in 1998, but said Louise had missed too much of the course to be admitted this term. "Having a year off now would be such an upheaval," Louise said. "I'm not sure I could face another change, especially when I'm settled and enjoying the course."

Both Louise and her mother are angry that the process has cost her the chance of a Cambridge degree. "After two days of interviews and tests, I think the college had a far better picture of me than they could ever have got through A levels," Louise said. "Yet they were all that counted."

Sue Nichol said: "As a teacher, I see all the time how unpredictable A levels are in subjects like English, history and art. This is a typical example of the student suffering when she has done everything right."

## Scene set for pay battle

Members of the National Union of Teachers, says the review body reportedly looked "horified" earlier this month when local authority employers demanded a below-inflation rise next year.

"If the Government does not get enough money from phasing out the Assisted Places Scheme to meet its class size targets, it has to find more money from somewhere else, not from teachers' pay," he says.

"Teachers will be angry if they have to pay for smaller classes. Mr Lane should be arguing for higher pay as well as smaller classes and



Brown: pay restraint

telling the Government to find the money."

Mr Brown called the public sector pay review chairman together on Tuesday to drive home his pay policy message. Head teachers sense that the intervention means the writing is on the wall for next year's pay round — and perhaps even for the future of the review body, which makes its recommendations in January.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, says: "This was an outrageous interference with the independence of the pay review body. I hope it will resist this pressure and make recommendations that are in the interests of the education service, even if they are not to the liking of the Government."

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If your heart tugs you in one direction and your head in another, do you try to stand still? Clearly that would be biologically wise. Your body would snap. But that is more or less the attitude of our museums and galleries to the vexed matter of admission charges.

Few people would raise a rousing cheer if charges were imposed by the institutions that still maintain free public entry. The heart says no. The evidence also says no, in the sense that most of it (though not all) suggests that attendances would decline.

Yet nobody would be chuffed if a national glory like the British Museum went bust. True, the BM's financial methods were, until recently, skimpish to the point of invisibility. The mummified Egyptians who line the BM's halls were certainly accustomed to less primitive accountancy procedures in their former lives.

Even so, the fact is that, even if it were better managed, the BM would probably still need to increase its income. Since that

## The charge of the cobwebbed brigade

increase won't come from politicians, it must come from punters. Therefore the head reluctantly says yes to charges. And not only at the BM, but at all institutions that have clung to free entry.

The question now is, does head or heart win? This week the "heart" brigade has been in full hysterical cry. They suspect that a Labour Party which piously abhorred museum charges while in Opposition has now executed a U-turn. They are right to suspect. Labour will find not a penny more for culture. So, short of robbing the Peters of the performing arts to pay the Pauls of the museums, the Culture Secretary has no option but to be pragmatic. Next week he is likely to tell the museums to charge away, if that is what it takes to keep them in business.

Will that be sad? Again, the heart says yes. A few Saturdays ago I had an hour to kill in London

with my three children. We went to the National Gallery. The atmosphere was chaotic but exhilarating. Tots thronged round Turners, adolescent eyes grew saucer-wide at the fleshly exuberance of the rambunctious Old Masters. No space for peaceful contemplation here – but my goodness, the place was alive.

You will guess my next sentence. We might not have dropped into the National Gallery on impulse if entry had involved the swift removal of £25. Nor would scores of other families that day. Parting with serious money would have turned the whole thing into a big deal cultural expedition. I would have forced the kids to trudge round every damn canvas to get our tickets' worth. They would have made an Oedipal mental note to avoid Daddy's favourite art gallery for the rest of their lives.

So I have some sympathy with those who argue that free muse-

ums foster cultural appreciation in ways that are unquantifiable and subliminal. But isn't there a slight-of-hand illogicality here? After all, it is just as important that I indoctrinate my children into the pleasures of the Nation's

the Albert Hall, Lord's Cricket Ground and Arsenal Football Club. Each is as much part of our cultural heritage as the National Gallery. Yet I don't expect the family to get in free.

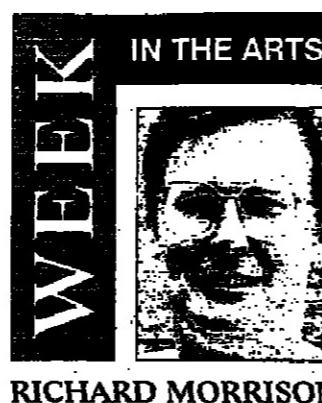
That is why I object to the gallons of sentimental trash in the newspapers this week. A turnstile at the BM does not signal the end of civilisation. It might just help to preserve it. Nor will it "discourage working-class people". Alton Towers is packed with ordinary folk who pay a hefty wedge to get in. The fact is that the public is attracted by atmosphere, imagination, excitement, friendliness and good marketing, not by free entry. Some of the world's greatest museums charge for entry and are packed. Other are free but as lively as morgues at midnight. Indeed, without any financial pressure to pull in punters, curators easily settle into cobwebbed old ways.

more, your admission charge for that day is refunded.

It's clever marketing. Britain's museums should be uniting to devise something similar. The Dutch already have. And they should be concluding deals with the tourist trade, so that foreign visitors are sold comprehensive museum passes as part of their travel packages.

In short, instead of clinging to paternalistic Victorian ideals, museums should be planning how to compete with the myriad leisure attractions of the 21st century. They urgently need to revolutionise their marketing, inject some thrills into their displays, invest in kid-gripping interactive technology, exploit their collections on the Internet. To do that they need money. Admission charges will supply it. Nothing else will.

But in their present siege mentality, museum bosses won't admit this. What a pity. We will waste years in argument and financial turmoil, and then end up with admission charges anyway. But that's British cultural life for you.



RICHARD MORRISON

**THEATRE:** One of the National's most successful plays has upset disabled people, Sue Corbett reports. Plus reviews



Owen Sharpe, Ruaidhri Conroy and Aisling O'Sullivan in the National's production of *The Cripple of Inishmaan*: disabled people say they were upset that the central figure was the butt of so many jokes

A spot of embarrassment is heading the National Theatre's way next Tuesday. Its 1996-97 staging of Martin McDonagh's *The Cripple Of Inishmaan* is expected to receive a Raspberry Ripple Award for the year's worst theatre portrayal of a disabled person. This, and other awards for best and worst portrayals of disabled people in the arts and media, will be made by the I in 8 Group, which lobbies against disabled people (one in eight of the population) being seen as tragic, evil, heroic or comic, rather

## A ripple of disapproval

than as part of ordinary life.

The embarrassment to the National is double-edged, since I in 8 and the theatre have generally been on friendly terms. The National's former artistic director, Sir Richard Eyre, had even offered the group free use of one of his foyers for next Tuesday's ceremony, an offer it turned down when it decided to

televise the awards. "But the Raspberry Ripple Awards are not meant to be heavy," says Susie Burrows, the I in 8 spokeswoman. "We are not intending to castigate the National. We are just giving people a chance to think about the issues."

Nevertheless the group,

which sent out 5,500 ballot papers to its 1,000 members

and other interested parties, found there was a "spontaneous eruption" of feeling against *The Cripple Of Inishmaan*. Some voters were so shocked that they left the theatre at the interval, and one disabled man, who had begun to think the audience would laugh at him if he went to the bar, felt compelled to stay in his seat at half-time.

"People were upset by the play because the disabled character was the butt of so many jokes," says Richard Reiser, the Raspberry Ripple (rhymes with cripple) co-ordinator. "The play was supposedly educational, but when I saw it the audience was joining in laughing at the disabled person's expense. If you'd put a black man in such a role, with racist jokes, there would have been uproar."

A snatch of the McDonagh's dialogue illustrates what Reiser means: "What would I want to go out walking with a

cripple-boy for?" one character asks. "It isn't out walking that you'd do anyways, it would be our shuffling, because you can't walk."

"Eyre had told me they had had a play coming up that I wouldn't like because of the title," Reiser says. "He was right. The word cripple is gratuitously offensive. The assumption presumably was that the audience was sophisticated enough to say: 'Oh, we don't use that word.' But that's not true. We're not at that stage."

"In fact, the title was the least of our worries. The play did not in any way enhance people's perceptions of the issues, and what is the theatre if it does not change and inform attitudes? These are some of the ideas we'd like to take forward now with Richard Eyre's successor."

The able-bodied teenage actor Ruaidhri Conroy received glowing reviews for his acting

in the title role. But disabled actors complain that this robbed them of their best stage opportunity for years. "I can't believe the National couldn't find a disabled actor," says Jamie Beddard, who has cerebral palsy and performs with the Tottering Bipeds Company. "If able-bodied actors get to play disabled roles, why doesn't the reverse happen?"

T he National's casting director, Serena Hill, explains her difficulty: "It wasn't clear until we got to rehearsals exactly what the character's disability would be. But the age (17 to 18), the soul of this man, and the fact that he should be authentically Irish – were clear. Those were the priorities. Disabled or otherwise, it was going to be hard to find an actor that young with the right experience."

"There wasn't any contest once we'd seen Ruaidhri.

There was a disabled actor on my initial list; he was too old really for the part, but he had many of the qualities we wanted. We would have seen him except that he turned out no longer to be available."

For Reiser, that is unacceptable. "Until theatres like the National start casting disabled people in more minor roles, people are not going to have the experience to come through and do major parts. We need cross-casting, as applies now with black actors. Disabled actors shouldn't have to play stereotypes."

Meanwhile, smaller companies seem to be taking the lead. It is good news that Tottering Bipeds is on I in 8 shortlist for best theatre production of 1997, "for casting Jamie Beddard in a leading role in *Waiting for Godot*, and making his impairment an integral part of the play".

• If you want to help I in 8 to monitor portrayals of disabled people for next year's awards, write to them at 78 Mildmay Grove, London N1 4PJ, enclosing SAE. The Raspberry Ripple Awards ceremony will be shown by Channel 4 on Wednesday at 11.30pm.

## A very modern monster

A PRISON warder calls Roberto Zucco, who has just killed his father, an example of "steer evil" and "a wild, violent, animal bastard". But the speaker belongs to the same law-and-order system that proceeds to threaten a harmless young woman with violence in a "torture chamber". Later the same girl's brother, enraged that Zucco has raped her, also calls the criminal "evil". Yet his own next move is to sell his sister to a local pimp. What is going on in the unnamed but recognisably French city where Bernard-Marie Koltes set the play he finished just before he died of an Aids-related disease in 1989?

If a radical British dramatist of that era had penned Roberto Zucco, the answer would have been pretty clear. A corrupt, hypocritical capitalist society created a killer who, as it turns out, manages also to knock off his mother, a policeman and a child. But Koltes's ideology is not so glib, nor his diagnosis so neat. Roberto Zucco – a real-life

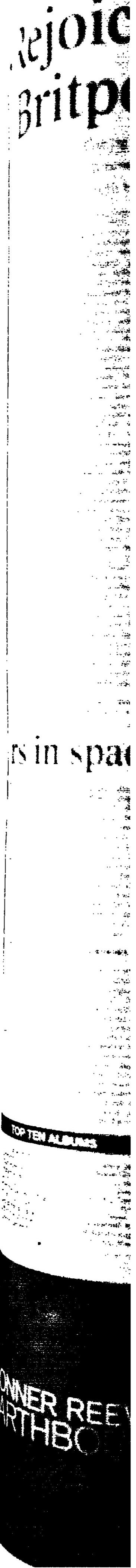
murderer and suicide – emerges as an end-of-millennium version of Büchner's Woyzeck: a zonked boy who blunders about wreaking havoc without wanting to or knowing why.

That's what makes the character and the play interesting and disturbing. You believe his mother when, just before he strangles her, she says that Roberto has been "good for 24 years". You believe those who call him gentle and sweet, because, as Zubin Varla plays the role, there is always something vulnerable, earnest and baffled about him. He seems to be without motive, at times without identity. When people ask him his name, he has genuine trouble remembering. He is uncategorisable, modern and terrifying.

I don't think Koltes comes anywhere near proving Zucco's contention that, if the right switch were pressed, we would "all start murdering each other". But, helped by Martin Crimp's deft translation and James Macdonald's stark, sinister production at Stratford's Other Place, he certainly creates an unsettling atmosphere. The world has shrunk to a corridor of grey light, populated by the frustrated and the bewildered, the angry and the despairing. Little wonder that Zucco bubbles into a phone about wanting to be reincarnated as a stray dog; little wonder there is nobody at the other end.

With a drunken father reeling across the stage threatening to beat up whoever has hidden his booze and violent policemen, tarts and bouncers also making their weight felt, Koltes's metropolis has the random, chaotic feel of Howard Korder's New York or the London of our own young chiropters of urban enigma.

But there are one or two scenes that few late-20th-century pessimists have bettered, prime among them one where an armed Roberto holds hostage Diana Kent's socialite and her son. It is not just that she clearly finds the experience an exhilarating release from boredom. It is that the violence occurs to the accompaniment of a chorus of onlookers, voyeurs interested only in bickering about their own roles in the crisis. It's the awful, funny and true. So is



THE TIMES FRIDAY NOVEMBER 28 1997

ARTSPOP 39

# Rejoice! Rejoice! Britpop is dead

**T**he whole thing about euphoria is that you are only supposed to sample it in tiny nips and delicious sips. It is tangerine, not something you could live off, lest your stomach turn to acid. It needs to be augmented with progress, achievement, reflection, knowledge and something stodgy and carbohydrate-like work. Britpop, which was played entirely on one emotional note — cocaine-induced euphoria — was always destined to have a short life.

It has dated horribly. Anything promoted on Britpop iconography seems almost stadia-tinted and lame in the dying moments of 1997. The Spice Girls — Union Jack dresses, Great British crisps, the tabloid version of Britpop — come across as exhausted kitch dinosaurs. The big Pulp comeback single, *Help the Aged*, went in at only No 9. Echo & the Bunnymen — always the limping, lion-fodder antelopes in the Britpop herd — have both released catastrophically unsuccessful albums. Supergrass, despite making one of the best albums of the year, have seen it sell dismally in the backslash. Black Grape are no longer something you'd get excited about. Blur have distanced themselves entirely from Britpop.

And Oasis? Well, they are hardly dead in the water, having sold three million copies of *Be Here Now*, but the thrill has gone. When Chris Evans — not the most intellectually gifted of men, but one able to sniff out a cultural trend the way rats can scent a dropped Big Mac from 800 yards — tried, and failed, to resuscitate a copy of *Be Here Now* with defibrillators on *ITV Friday*, he got it bang on. Britpop is dead.

The real story behind Britpop explains why it could

**The jig is up, the hype exposed, and now Oasis, Pulp and the rest will have to do a proper job**

never have lasted that long. Back in 1993, the British music industry was in serious trouble. Although it was, as it has always been, Britain's third biggest grosser, the trend was definitely downward. Grunge had made British bands seem hopelessly out of date and provincial to the international market, and the only British acts that were selling were the old warhorses — Phil Collins, Pink Floyd — and one-hit or two-hit wonder dance artists. The industry hated and still hates dance artists — impossible to promote, short shelf-life, no personalities to hang merchandise off, and completely alienating for anyone over the age of 30.

So when Suede came along, corduroy trousers full of credibility, frontman vulnerable and photogenic, and musical reference points (Bowie, Smiths, Kate Bush) that got the over-thirties buying a lightbulb appeared over the heads of the industry. Suede came from the "indie" world, so maybe there was more of this lovely marketable stuff in the alternative ghetto.

Bingo! The indie world finally got a big promotional push. But not the weirdo stuff, not sonic experimentalists Spiritualized, or the Krautrock balladeering of Julian Cope, or the crumpled futurism of Stereolab; just the retro, comfortingly familiar guitar bands.

And so Britpop was spawned, a movement not

born of any musician-led collectivism, or a groundswell of new noise, but conceived in the sterile petri dish of press and marketing, and weaned on cocaine.

The coke euphoria lasted two years, and spawned ridiculous claims on behalf of Britpop — that London was the coolest city on earth (Reykjavik or New York, surely); that England was swinging once again (not after 1956); and that Britain had asserted its "rightful" place as the creative focus of the hip hop collective.

This was the cocaine talking it more than the music could walk it. While Blur, Oasis et al were selling well in Japan and Europe,

America was roundly unimpressed by Mod haircuts and youthful recycling of the Beatles' back-catalogue — and without breaking the American market no act or movement can claim to be a global cultural force.

Still, the teeth-grinding hyperbole rolled on. Oasis's gig at Knebworth in 1996 prompted an editorial in the *NME* claiming that Noel was "the king of the world" on the basis that he was the "most important man in Britain". This was ridiculous wishful thinking.

As Björk explained in a recent interview: "All cultures — the Romans and the Egyptians and the English and the Americans — they all have climaxes, and they just want to stay there. A hundred years

ago you had Great Britain, which is hilarious if you think about it. Can you imagine a Great Iceland?"

Britain's peak was indeed in the late Victorian/early Edwardian years. The Sixties were a small economic and cultural blip. And anyway, as hippy dress was based on Edwardian clothing, even the Sixties were an exercise in nostalgia.

As Britpop was, in the main, nostalgia for the Sixties it was, at root, another mournful longing for the days of Empire and global dominance. This was why cocaine was so integral to Britpop. Cocaine allows you to believe that you are living in the best of all possible times, in the best of all possible countries; rather than accepting that we are down the global economic and creatively behind the American East Coast hip hop collective.

Britain isn't great any more. The Beatles could never have existed in the Nineties. John Lennon would have shrunk from taking out a student loan and gone to work on a building site to earn cash. Paul McCartney would have been on a Restart scheme filing papers in a solicitors' office.

Britpop was a little, local thing, but we had to pretend it was the biggest news since the Moon landings because to admit that it was merely the 19th most exciting cultural trend in the past ten years would have been to lose face.

Bizarrely, it was the death of Princess Diana that finally put Britpop into perspective. That was global interest in Britain. Britpop, by comparison, was akin to the retirement of Humphrey the Downing Street cat. And now it is over. What comes next is the interesting part.



If no use begging, Jarvis Cocker, you and the rest of Pulp have had your day. The Britpop bubble has burst



CAITLIN MORAN

## Tears in spades for the queen of hearts

VARIOUS ARTISTS

Diana, Princess of Wales Tribute

(The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund Ltd.)

VVR1001052; two discs £18.99

DOUBTFUL we all hold her memory dear. And many charities will benefit from this musical "celebration of the life and work of Diana, Princess of Wales". But any album that includes a few new songs and a lot of old ones from Sir Cliff Richard, Sir Paul McCartney, Rod Stewart, Barbra Streisand, Celine Dion, Michael Jackson, Queen, Whitney Houston, Mariah Carey, Bryan Ferry, Diana Ross, the Bee Gees, George Michael, Tina Turner, Toni Braxton with Kenny G, Gloria Estefan and Michael Bolton, most of them in full power-ballad battery, is going to tax the capacity for sentimental gush of even the most respectful listener.

There are songs which, in a less oppressive context, one would not hesitate to describe as great: Eric Clapton's *Tears in Heaven*, R.E.M.'s *Everybody Hurts*, Passengers & Pavarotti's *Miss Sarajevo*, the Spice Girls' *Mama*, and a

start, achingly beautiful new song by Peter Gabriel called *In the Sun*, with the simple, heartfelt refrain: "May God's love be with you, always."

But the cumulative effect of so much emotion leaves precious little room for either musical nuance or an individual response to these songs. The contributions merge into one long, stage-managed *cra de cœur* from the pop establishment that, for all its good intentions, is about as stirring as a nice pot of tea.

GARTH BROOKS

Sevens (Capitol \$6.99 £19.49)

HIS previous album, *Fresh Horses*, was judged to have performed poorly because it sold "only" four million copies in America, and the corporate structure of Capitol Records had to be altered before he would allow the record company to release *Sevens*. But despite wielding phenomenal clout and a business brain as sharp as a man-trap, Garth Brooks still purveys in his music the homespun wisdom of a simple country boy on the make.

### NEW POP ALBUMS

the Chemicals' propulsive drum sound is one with which lovers of the great funk and rock acts of the past can identify.

Their influence in the dance world can be gauged by the way in which other artists have emulated their hard, choppy "big beat" style. And on *Chemical Reaction* a bunch of rare Chemical Brothers' mixes dating back to 1993 of songs including Primal Scream's *Jailbird*, Leftfield's *Open Up* and Saint Etienne's *Like a Motorway* are seamlessly interspersed with cuts by British underground acts such as Depth Charge (*Shaolin Buddha Finger*), Aphrodite (*Apromoods*) and Dirty Beamsie (*Don't Stop*).

The sound of these various artists is so compatible you would think it was the Chemicals at the helm the whole way through, although, ironically, the best drum track is by the duo Freakniks on their number *Uncivilized World*, a brutal funk breakdown of surpassing energy and urgency.

### SQUAREPUSHER

Burnin' Tree (Warp WARP CD 53 £14.49)

A COMPILATION OF 12 UNEDITED instrumental tracks, *Burnin' Tree* is a handy introduction to the maverick genius of Tom Jenkinson, the 22-year-old bass player and programmer from Chelmsford otherwise known as Squarepusher.

Although his audience comprise devotees of drum and bass and other forms of modern electronica, Jenkinson's outrageously fast and fluent bass playing style is redolent of 1970s jazz fusionists. Jenkinson is also the only musician I have come across who will programme a drum machine to play a swing ride cymbal pattern and Elvin Jones-style snare and bass-drum breaks — as he does here on Track 7 — before plastering a disco bass line and old-fashioned electric piano sound on top. It's a delirious, free-form, yet highly evolved concoction.

DAVID SINCLAIR

THE CHARLATANS haven't had it easy. Nervous breakdowns, creative blackouts and critical mudlings may be occupational hazards when you are in a rock'n'roll band, but the death last year of keyboard player Rob Collins in a road accident was a tragedy that took the story beyond the dimensions of *Spinal Tap*.

The band contemplated packing it in there and then, persevered. To their eternal credit, they returned reinvigorated and with a renewed sense of purpose, releasing the most assured album of their career earlier this year, the chart-topping *Tellin' Stories*. As their resilience has grown, so has their fan base, with this sell-out show at the Olympia marking the opening night of a tour that finishes next month in the 12,000-capacity Docklands Arena in London.

But this is an altogether more intimate setting — a theatre, not an amphitheatre albeit one with the seats removed — and there was a real warmth in the audience's greeting of the band that was then channelled directly into the group's performance.

*With No Shoes* is followed directly by *North Country*

## Frauds to have faith in

### LIVE GIG

The Charlatans  
Olympia, Dublin

Boy — an exhilarating start. Singer Tim Burgess either struts and swaggers around the stage, or else he stays put, his dreamy vocals delivered with one hand in his pocket as though he were waiting for the bus.

There is a real kick to the music. The Charlatans are very much a group effort, as opposed to being merely a frontman with four sidekicks.

An assertive rhythm section, the wah-wah wail of Mark Collins's guitar and the tempestuous Wurlitzer of new keyboard player Tony Rogers all combined to strike up a soulful blues-inflected rock groove redolent of the Rolling

Stones circa *Sympathy for the Devil* and, as has been noted once or twice, the Stones Roses.

But if it's true that the Charlatans initially rode in the slipstream of their Northern brethren's success when they first appeared in 1990, they have stayed true to their vision and resisted the temptation to be blown off course by the fickle winds of fashion. There are signs of a slight stylistic shift: a gloriously inept one-note harmonica break is pure Bob Dylan and there are flashes of Led Zeppelin in some of the guitar riffs. But mostly the Charlatans stick to what they know best.

The blustering organ and shimmering guitars of *Weirdo*, the full-throated boogie of *Just When You're Thinkin' Things Over*, and during the encores, a floor-shaking version of *How High* are all evidence of a band in complete command of its art.

The Christmas lights on stage suggested a band in an upbeat, celebratory mood. Who can blame them? On this form they have got a lot to smile about.

NICK KELLY

### TOP TEN ALBUMS

|                                |                         |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 (3) Let's Talk About Love    | Celine Dion (Epic)      |
| 2 (1) Spaceworld               | Spice Girls (Virgin)    |
| 3 (2) Urban Hymns              | Verve (Hut)             |
| 4 (5) Greatest Hits            | Elton (EMI)             |
| 5 (6) Like You Do              | Lightning Seeds (Epic)  |
| 6 (5) Paint the Sky with Stars | Enya (WEA)              |
| 7 (7) White on Blonde          | Texas (Mercury)         |
| 8 (10) Backstreet Boys' Back   | Backstreet Boys (Jive)  |
| 9 (1) Left of the Middle       | Natalie Imbruglia (RCA) |
| 10 (9) Lennon Legend           | John Lennon (Panaphone) |

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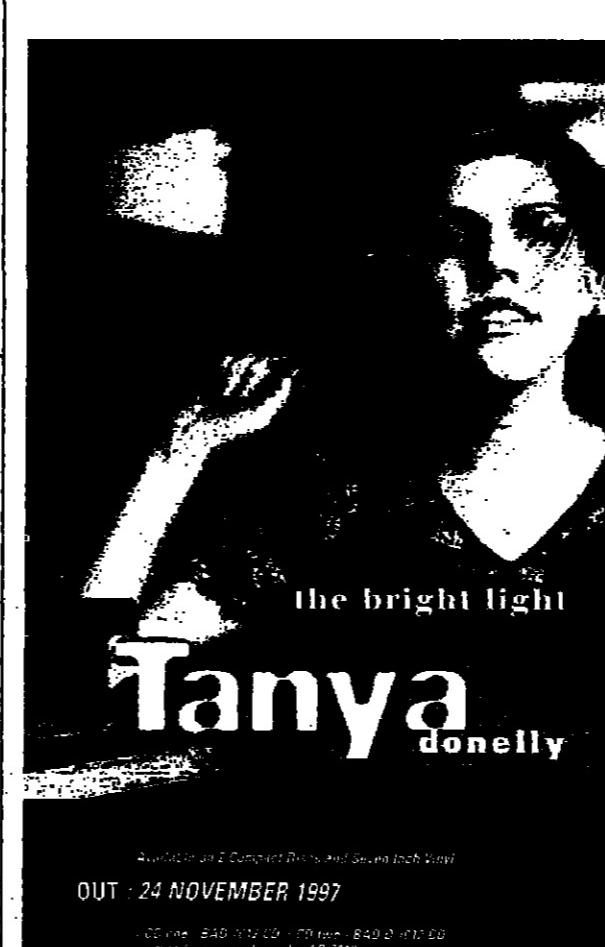
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**LONDON**

**HAMLET** Alex Jennings plays the Prince in Matthew Warchus's production of Shakespeare's play at the Royal Court. Paul Freeman as Claudius. Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (0171-638 5911). Preview from Sat. 7.30pm. Opens Dec 4, 7pm. In rep.

**FINNISH JAZZ** The cream of Finland's jazz musicians, the UMO Big Band, joins forces with two of England's leading names in the genre, trumpeter Chris Botti and singer Diana Krall, and pianist John Surman for an evening of exciting and innovative music-making. Part of the Vivaldi festival of Finnish culture. Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-639 8991). Tonight, 7.30pm. £30.

**LEONINE LIMA** Christopher Staines and Sarah-Jane Clark top the bill in the final instalment of Buxtehude's three plays. David Fan directs Lee Hall's new version, set as a musical. Gate Theatre, Prince Albert Pub, 11 Pembridge Road, W11 (0171-229 0708). Preview from Sat. 7.30pm. Then Sun 7.30pm. Open Mon, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Until Dec 3.

**PROKOFIEV FESTIVAL** Russian conductor Alexander Lazarev visits the South Bank this weekend to conduct the London Philharmonic Orchestra in two concert performances of his concert suite *War and Peace*. Tonight's programme features Violin Concerto No 1 and *Croush*. On Sunday the acclaimed pianist Nikolai Demidenko joins the orchestra to perform a selection of works including Piano Concerto No 5. Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight and Sun, 7.30pm. £20.

**ELSEWHERE** Edinburgh's Russell Hunter plays the title role in James Duthie's *Gretel*. His neice becomes the first soloist at Peterhead fish market, while he charters

**WEEKEND CHOICE**

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Merrit Hargreave

on about his Cambridgeshire fashion boutique long ago. John Tufney directs what is said to be an extraordinary play about an ordinary family. The Cambridge Street, Edinburgh (0131-225 1404). Preview tonight, Sun, 8pm. Open, Tue, 8pm. Then Tue-Sun, 8pm. Until Dec 20. £5.

**HUDDERSFIELD** A packed programme at the festival this weekend offers dance as well as music. Tonight, at the Lawrence Batley Theatre (01924 270000), the Northern Dance Company performs works set to music by Britten.

**LEEDS** Ian Talbot directs the famous British Philharmonic Orchestra in a programme of Glaziev & Subotin. The Philharmonic's Jeremy Horner plays the Prince King and Paul Bentley the Major General. West Yorkshire Playhouse, The Quay, Hill Mount, LS11 2AA (0113-244 2111). Preview from Sat. 7.30pm. Then Sun, 8pm. Open Dec 4, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Matr Thur and Sat, 5pm. Until Jan 24.

**LONDON GALLERIES** British Museum: Carter 1900-1928 (0171-232 8529); Roman Objects 0171-232 2144; Medieval Objects 0171-232 2144; Museum of London: Bedlam Custody, care and cure (0171-900 0807); National Portrait Gallery: Marmion-Agincourt (0171-930 3200); National Portrait: John Kelly Photographic Portrait Award 1997 (0171-706 0056); Portraits John Syme (0171-404 0700); Tate Britain: Rembrandt (0171-501 2000); V & A: Carl and Katharina Larsson (0171-938 0944).

**THEATRE GUIDE**

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only

■ Seats available at all prices

■ Seats at mat 7pm tomorrow.

■ SCISSOR HAPPY Comedy

■ THE SLOW DRAG Jazz musical

■ LONG RUNNERS

■ THE INVENTION OF LOVE Tom

Stoppard's new play with John Wood as

■ BUGSY MALONE The cast of the

National Youth Music Theatre fire the

peacock feathers in this musical

clowned down by Alan Parker's

newly minted director, Norman Rossington

Barbican, Silks, London Wall, EC2 (0171-501 6093). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 3.30pm. Until Jan 10.

■ THE CHAIRS Richard Briers and

Gerda Nicolson play the ancient

couple fearing for their important

guests in Ionesco's celebrated "tragic farce". Simon McBurney directs for

Complicite

**NEW RELEASES**

■ ALIEN RESURRECTION (18) Sigourney Weaver returns to combat more aliens in a taurian sequel that hardly gets off the ground. With Winona Ryder, Michael Biehn. ABC Baker Street (0171-525 9772). Greenwich (0181-300 0005). Odeon Camden Town (0181-315 4255). Multiplex (0181-315 4214). Swan Cinema (0181-315 4214). UCI Whiteleys (0181-315 2211). UCI Whitemeans (0181-889900).

■ 8 HEADS IN A DUFFEL BAG (15) Motörhead Joe Pezz loses a bag of severed heads. So black comedy, with Knut Swanson and David Spade. Director, Rob Reiner. Cinedigm (0171-498 3322). Curzon Mayfair (0171-889 720). Odeon Sutton (0171-315 2210). Warner (0171-437 4434).

■ KONG: THE ASPIRINATOR FLYING (12) The shenanigans of Richard E. Grant's aspiring poet. Small pleasures only in a version of Orwell's 1984 novel. With Helen Bonham Carter, Director, Robert Zemeckis. Cinedigm (0171-498 3322). Curzon Mayfair (0171-437 4434). Ritz (0171-737 2121). Screen/Baker Street (0171-635 2772).

■ ONE NIGHT STAND (18) Absorbing study of a man's and a woman's sexual partners and their aftermath. Eddie Murphy and Kim Cattrall. Shady Shoes, Nasca, Jimmy's, Robert

Pearce and Danny DeVito. ABC Paragon (0181-228 0000). Metelling Hill (0171-727 5705).

Odeon: Camden Town (0181-315 4214). Marble Arch (0181-315 4214). Swiss Cottage (0181-315 4214). UCI Whitemeans (0181-889900). Virgin Haymarket (0171-839 1527). Warner (0171-437 4434).

■ SEVEN YEARS IN TIBET (PG) Brian Pines' film enlightenment in 1940s Tibet, but what about us? Handsome Daniel Day-Lewis and Helen Mirren in this powerful version of Russell Banks's novel from the iconoclastic Atom Egoyan. With Ian Holm. ABC Swiss Centre (0171-339 4470).

■ WELCOME TO SARAJEVO (15) Striking British account of reporters covering the civil war in 1992, based on Michael Moore's experiences. With Steven Dilane. ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-614 8218). Barbiere (0171-838 8891). Cinedigm Picture House (0171-838 8891). Curzon (0171-315 4214). Phoenix (0171-838 8891). Screen/Baker Street (0171-635 2772).

■ UNFORGIVEN (18) Powerful, stark British feature exploring the complexities of war in 1992, based on Michael Moore's experiences. With Steven Dilane. ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-614 8218). Barbiere (0171-838 8891). Cinedigm Picture House (0171-838 8891). Curzon (0171-315 4214). Phoenix (0171-838 8891). Screen/Baker Street (0171-635 2772).

■ THE TANGO LESSON (PG) A film director teams to tango. Brave and witty, with the director of Orlando, Claudio Pizzati, who co-stars with Paolo Veron. Chelsea (0171-351 3742). Odeon Mincing Lane (0181-315 4215). Renzi (0171-437 4434). Ritz (0171-737 2121). Screen/Baker Street (0171-635 2772).

■ UNFORGIVEN (18) Powerful, stark British feature exploring the complexities of war in 1992, based on Michael Moore's experiences. With Steven Dilane. ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-614 8218). Barbiere (0171-838 8891). Cinedigm Picture House (0171-838 8891). Curzon (0171-315 4214). Phoenix (0171-838 8891). Screen/Baker Street (0171-635 2772).

■ CURRENT (18) Smashing drama about corruption in LA in the early 1950s, with Kevin Spacey, Russell Crowe, Kim Cattrall, Guy Pearce and Danny DeVito. ABC Paragon (0181-228 0000). Metelling Hill (0171-727 5705).

■ L.A. CONFIDENTIAL (18) Smashing drama about corruption in LA in the early 1950s, with Kevin Spacey, Russell Crowe, Kim Cattrall, Guy

Pearce and Danny DeVito. ABC Paragon (0181-228 0000). Metelling Hill (0171-727 5705).

■ THE MYTH OF FINGERPRINTS (18) Drama about a dysfunctional family, with good scenes and a good cast, but a little genteel. Shrewdly directed by Roy Schane. By the Banner and Julianne Moore. ABC Baker Street (0171-935 9772). Tottenham Court Rd (0171-638 6148).

■ ONE NIGHT STAND (18) Absorbing study of a man's and a woman's sexual partners and their aftermath. Eddie Murphy and Kim Cattrall. Shady Shoes, Nasca, Jimmy's, Robert

Pearce and Danny DeVito. ABC Paragon (0181-228 0000). Metelling Hill (0171-727 5705).

■ THE BOYS IN THE BAND (18) "FAST & FUNNY" E. Standard. Eve 8pm. Tues 7.30pm.

■ ALDWYCH 0171 416 6004. 420 0000 (no fee)

■ THE BOYS IN THE BAND (18) "FAST & FUNNY" E. Standard. Eve 8pm. Tues 7.30pm.

■ ALDWYCH 0171 416 6003. 420 0000 (no fee)

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voices too

# Think big, think Hollywood, then add a dash of British expertise

**M**ichael Kuhn, the man behind *Bean* and *Four Weddings*, now wants to take on the world. Interview by Raymond Snoddy

**M**ichael Kuhn is eagerly looking forward to the glitz London premiere at the Odeon Leicester Square on Tuesday of PolyGram's latest movie, *The Borrowers*. He has no idea whether it will make anything like as much money as PolyGram's biggest hit, *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, or pack them in as unexpectedly in America as Rowan Atkinson's *Bean* is now doing. But it is an important departure for the company all the same.

"It's our first real special-effects movie — and all made here — and I think it's come out just great and we are very hopeful for it. We are going to give it a big push in America. It's like a major Disney launch," says the 49-year-old Cambridge-educated lawyer, who

now spends most of his life in Hollywood mixing it with the top studio bosses.

*The Borrowers*, a Working Title Films production — like *Four Weddings and Bean* — is an adventure story for children and adults that

charts the trials and tribulations of a family of 4in people who live under the floorboards of a lifespan house and "borrow" what they need to survive.

For PolyGram the happenings off-screen on *The Borrowers* are almost as important as the quality of the special effects. The \$30 million movie is being backed by full-scale Hollywood marketing costs, worldwide distribution and lavish parties featuring the outsized props from the film.

No opportunity is being missed to line up commercial tie-ins with all the domestic products borrowed or used. When the little borrowers are trapped in the family refrigerator, the attention to detail includes the inclusion of Dreyer's American ice-cream. "You have to think of these things way in advance but this is what you have to do if you want to be competitive in America," says Kuhn, executive vice-president of PolyGram and president of PolyGram Filmed Entertainment.

His target is the \$40 billion annual world cinema market; making small cultural films is not the way to reach it and he regards the agonising by critics over what is or is not a British film as "completely ridiculous and stupid". As Kuhn sees it, the issue is: "How can we repatriate to the UK as much production as possible and how can we make Europe have at least one or two studios that are able to compete with Hollywood?"

The battle, he believes, is not just about winning Oscars but the power that the content conveys. Movies are one of the determinants behind who controls cable and satellite television — and the world of 200-channel digital television already launched in America and due to begin in the UK in late spring.

The PolyGram chief has been trying to persuade the European Commission to create a 100 to 200 million ecu film-guarantee fund, which he believes could generate a billion ecus of European production money.

With his colleague Stewart Till, Kuhn has also been trying to persuade the British Government to prod the City into creating a currency-hedge fund to even out the dollar-pound exchange rates for Hollywood film-makers.

"If the pound goes up to \$1.70, producers are going to go off to Marrakesh. If it goes down to \$1.40 it's great to film in England, and Pinewood is bursting at the seams," says Kuhn.

Ten years ago the prospect of PolyGram and Kuhn being in a position to influence the politics and economics of the European film industry, topping the US film charts and bringing in revenues of \$1 billion a year would have seemed as likely as a 4in family living under the floorboards.

It has been a ten-year process of slowly building PolyGram Filmed Entertainment and making sure that the inevitable "turkeys" didn't lose too much: the organisation has painful corporate memories of PolyGram's disastrous foray into movies in the 1970s.

For Kuhn, the key was reading *My Decision is Final*, a requiem to a former high-flying British film company, Goldcrest, by Terry Jollot and Jake Eberts.

There Kuhn found what he considered to be the blueprint for setting up a Hollywood studio without the real estate, by doing things differently from Goldcrest in every respect.

Kuhn decided it was essential both to have serious capital to compete in the Hollywood league — \$1 billion to \$2 billion over time — and to possess your own distribution system; otherwise, even when you have a hit, most of the profit leaks out to middlemen.

"It was also implied in the book that there are two businesses in film, there are cultural films and there are Hollywood films, and the business is really Hollywood films. If you don't make that

distinction you get yourself in real trouble," says Kuhn.

From the business point of view, PolyGram's competitive advantage turned out to be its ability to adapt its international record-distribution network to distribute films.

It has still been a hard struggle over ten years with, even now, no absolute certainty of success.

**F**or his first project, Kuhn asked some people he knew in Los Angeles to make, for \$1 million, a film that featured a car chase, an explosion and a fight. Both the American and international rights of the resulting movie, *Private Investigation*, were sold at a profit and "we took our money and ran", he says.

It was a far cry from more recent PolyGram productions such as *Fargo*, *The Usual Suspects*, *Dead Man Walking* and *Trainspotting*. But there has been a catalogue of flops as well. For five years, Working Title produced nothing that worked — even though they were often producing three or four films a year. Kuhn grimaces at the memory of one of them, *Chicago Jo and the Showgirl*.

Profits may not yet have arrived at PolyGram Filmed Entertainment, despite an investment of around \$900 million — not counting off-balance-sheet financing — but Kuhn believes that if you add the value of its growing film library, the return on investment is already 20 per cent, and that is before you add on anything for the digital revolution.

And as one of the legion of "suits" who now run virtually all the Hollywood studios — albeit a suit with a sense of irony and a touch of sardonic humour —

"Much of my job is to structure the company to allow people to fail. I never thought of dumping them, because I believed in them. But obviously all the time you have to judge it and say when enough enough," he says.

Even now, after ten years, the company has not yet broken into profit, although Kuhn hopes this may be only one or two years away. He plans to gear up production, from the current 12 to 14 films a year, to 16 a year — of which around eight will be for wide release. Buying a back catalogue of films would also help the push towards profit, although so far PolyGram has been outbid whenever a deal has come up.

PolyGram started off at 50 per cent and reached 90 per cent last year. Kuhn thinks he will hit the Hollywood average of 130 per cent within two years.

He even likes the look of two new movies now in production: *Elizabeth*, about Elizabeth I, from Working Title, and a Stephen Frears western now being shot in Santa Fe.

Looking back, Kuhn says he is amazed how PolyGram has become a real force in the business: it now earns more than \$1 billion a year in revenues, with growth rates of 20 per cent, and has its own distribution in 13 countries, accounting for 70-80 per cent of all film revenues.

"In the next two years we will get some

catalogue, then we will have achieved what no one has achieved since the war which is to build a new studio — and make some profits," says Kuhn before dissolving into laughter.

Kuhn will happily set out a mathematical formula for success in the movie business. Happiness among the bean-counters of the movie business is an average "rental to native ratio" — the amount received from theatrical exploitation of a movie compared with the cost of making it — of 130 per cent.

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The new 24-hour satellite link with the UK provides six new audio channels. From Monday, islanders will be able to hear BFBS 2 on medium wave around the clock, and BFBS 1 on FM. It will also enable BFBS to increase its daily TV output from 11 to 18 hours.

Mr Miller says: "The live TV schedule will be put together in the UK, taking the most popular programmes from all terrestrial channels, as well as news and sport. We have a camera and cameraman here and we hope to submit more material to *Scene Here*.

"The next step must be the Internet. Cable & Wireless, which supplies the Falklands with telephone and telecommunications, is looking into it."

## Santa's TV surprise for Falklands

**M**eg Carter explains how UK TV is reaching out

**C**hristmas usually comes in mid-January for civilians and Forces based in the Falklands. The islands' television service screens videos, flown from London to Port Stanley via Ascension Island, up to two weeks after programmes are broadcast in the UK.

All this will change on Monday, when live broadcasts start. For the first time, islanders will be able to watch *EastEnders* and *Coronation Street* on the day they go out in the UK. They will also get live news from the BBC and ITN, and selected live Premier League football coverage from Sky, as well as the chance to participate in a local news programme, *Scene Here*.

The news service is run by the British Forces Broadcasting Service (BFBS), which last year had its £60 million contract to supply TV to British Forces stationed around the world renewed for five more years by the Defence Ministry. Islanders and the military subsequently agreed extra funding to enhance the Falklands' tape-based TV service and to make use of a more powerful Intelsat satellite.

"It's a quantum leap forward," says Dusty Miller, station manager for BFBS TV and radio in the Falklands. "Previously, we've had to edit out anything particularly time-sensitive, such as sport and news. Until now, the Falklands have been a logistical nightmare. They are the size of Wales, with the population of Swansea and the terrain of Dartmoor. Five thousand people are split between the Mount Pleasant military base and the capital, Stanley. A further 500 are scattered elsewhere."

**P**eter McDonagh, the BFBS's director, says that going live was a "high welfare priority" and it was also about broadcasting choice. Islanders have their own newspaper, *The Penguin News*, but the only alternative to BFBS's tape-based TV service is KTV, a small satellite TV service recently launched by a local entrepreneur. KTV broadcasts American programmes from Chile to viewers in Port Stanley.

Radio has also been limited. BFBS provides two Forces stations to army bases around the world — BFBS 1, a Radio 1-style format, and BFBS 2, a Radio 2-Radio 4 hybrid. Until now, Falklanders have had only one service — a blend of BFBS 2, Radio 5 Live and BBC World Service, broadcast on FM and medium wave for most of each day. The volunteer-run Falklands Islands Broadcasting Service provides local programming on FM every evening.

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PolyGram's Michael Kuhn: making small, quaintly British cultural films will not conquer the world markets

## Reaction to movie could spawn a string of Beans

The only way is up

**■ MR BEAN** is now causing chaos in Hollywood. The global success of *Bean*, the movie — box-office takings \$200 million — means huge pressure for a follow-up. But will Rowan Atkinson oblige with *Bean 2*? Peter Bennett-Jones, joint producer with Tim Bevan, thinks not.

"Hollywood can't understand why we don't want to capitalise on our success," he says. But Atkinson is taking a year off. "He'll be polishing his vast collection of cars," says Bennett-Jones, whose Tiger Aspect company brought Mr Bean to British television screens in 1990 and developed the movie itself.

But the Bean team, including writers Richard Curtis and Robin Driscoll, does want to develop further — as a cartoon character. "Really, he's a children's character: they love his selfishness and ability to create chaos. Creatively, it would be very liberating. In a cartoon we can take him to all sorts of new places, for example, space," says Bennett-Jones. Mr Bean to fix the Mir space station? It's a awful thought.

Liam Daniel/PolyGram



Mr Bean: could he soon be causing chaos in space?

**■ AT THE** Royal Television Society dinner this week, the speaker, Mark Thompson, Controller of BBC2, was asked a mischievous question by Tom Gutteridge, Anneka Rice's producer. "If you were allowed to, where would you move *Newswight*?"

Chairman Tony Hall, chief executive of BBC News, immediately jumped up to rule that Thompson didn't have to reply. But senior broadcasters rushed to fill me in afterwards. Thompson would love to move *Newswight* from 10.30pm to 11pm, they said, freeing him to schedule a wider range of adult entertainment. *Newswight* could then expand into a 60-minute news/lite review. After all, *Panorama* has been moved to 10pm. But from Hall's reaction, it looks off-limits.

**■ WHAT** is happening to *The Independent*? It's surely too new a paper to be sinking into senility? This week, Miles Kington's Monday column was reprinted again on Tuesday. The regular, fluent Monday column from its media editor, Rob Brown, seemed oddly stale: it was recycled from the week before. Last Saturday's *Weasel diary* in *The Independent's* magazine carried an elaborate apology: the entry for

November 15 was a reprint of the previous week's. Perhaps the Editor, Andrew Marr, belongs to the (late) John Junior school of journalism?

When Editor of the *Sunday Express*, he said: "I really think people would be happiest with the same newspaper every week." He practised what he preached too — between 1954 and 1986 the paper served up the same unfailing recipe: starlets jettisoning off to the sun, the Crossbentcher column, a Giles cartoon. But *Independent* staffers say the once-great paper, with costs cut to the bone, simply doesn't have enough staff to check that the pages are correct. Sad.

**■ WHEN** John Brown, self-made publisher of *Viz*, held a 10-year birthday party last week, Ed Bye, husband of Ruby Wax, won the raffle: two tickets to New York. A voice piped up that this was unfair: "He gets free trips anyway." John Brown drew

again, and a needier media foot soldier got the seats.

**■ RESEARCH** from Channel 4 has revealed the profile of the viewers to whom chief executive Michael Jackson must appeal. I reprint it, with apologies to Rudyard Kipling:

*If you eat mainly vegetarian food  
And think it's worth paying more for organic fruit and veg  
If you dream of holidays off the beaten track  
Yet humbly queue with crowds before the cinema doors  
If you read labels on food to check for additives  
But cannot resist buying those escapist magazines  
If you can spend the unforgetting minute*

*With 60 seconds' worth of shopping on the Net  
Yours are the eyeballs  
Channel 4 has conquered  
And — which is more — you're the Modern Media Person.*

**■ THE BBC's** mad internal market has been rightly ridiculed for charging programme-makers £20 a time for a peek at *Who's Who* or for borrowing a CD, forcing humble researchers into time-wasting journeys to free libraries.

Now Will Wyatt, pragmatic chief executive of BBC Broadcast, has acted. His policy paper suggests that each BBC department pays an annual joining fee to the library/archive systems, slashing requests for research to about £3 or so. Common sense takes so long to triumph at the BBC.

**■ UPDATE** on the British Film Institute's controversial new £20 million IMAX cinema, under construction at the Waterloo traffic roundabout. Newly appointed BFI secretary John Woodward, who has inherited the plan from outgoing chairman film pro-

ducer Jeremy Thomas, has apparently agreed a compromise which was put forward by Joan Bakewell, deputy chairwoman. He will take stewardship of the project — it's too late to stop. But he will look for a commercial partner used to running cinemas, say Richard Branson's Virgin, to take it over and share the risk. Insiders say that unless this is fixed, it could be the final folly that destroys the BFI.

**■ DAWN AIREY**, Channel 5's gutsy programme director, most prominent woman in mainstream television, has wrung a crucial commitment to her career advancement from shareholders Lord Hollick and Greg Dyke.

In return for spurning an offer from Elizabeth Murdoch, to mastermind a big expansion of general entertainment satellite service Sky 1, they are sending her to Harvard Business School to burnish her management skills. This is the same course which Dyke took before transforming himself from Roland Rat's Dad to managing director of London Weekend Television, multimillionaire, and Pearson's TV deal-maker; and which John Birt was about to go on when the BBC recruited him to be its eventual Director-General (he compensates with one-to-one tutorials with top management gurus). Channel 5's Michael Jackson took a similar course. "I'm sure Dawn will be a chief executive somewhere," says David Elstein, Channel 5's silvery-tongued chief executive.

**■ HARVARD-BOUND:** Dawn Airey



Dawn Airey

## Business

# Stressed for success

Downsizing and backstabbing make media and marketing the most highly stressed professions. Virginia Matthews reports

**M**igraines, ulcers, heart disease and irritable bowel syndrome are among the chronic disorders that lie in wait for the stressed-out brand manager or advertising executive, the annual Marketing Society Conference heard last week.

In a culture where everyday distrust, backstabbing and often 14-hour days are given the added piquancy of impossible deadlines, slashed budgets and omnivorous clients, it is little wonder that as many as a third of people working in media, marketing, and advertising are, according to a 2,500 sample survey by the industrial psychologist Dr David Lewis, considering quitting their jobs.

Dr Lewis told an audience of marketing luminaries that the marketing and media professions were full of "intelligent, creative and ambitious" people whose high stress levels were directly related to the often minimal levels of control they had over their working lives.

Uncertainty about their jobs and intense competition with workmates, coupled with hostile management practices and bewildering layers of new technology had, he said, "significantly challenged" the view that marketing and media were full of grossly overpaid layabouts.

Many marketing professionals, he told the conference, the Marketing Society's 31st, worked every evening and throughout the weekend to fulfil their job's basic requirements.

Mr Lewis's survey, which quizzed employees in the public sector, as well as advertising, media and marketing personnel, found that time pressures — an important contributor to stress — are intensifying throughout the private and public sectors. As many as 83 per cent of marketing professionals believed that managers allowed them insufficient time to complete work to a high standard. The trend towards downsizing had discouraged staff from making their complaints known.



Under pressure: many ills among high-flyers are blamed on stress and fear in an ever-competitive workplace

The other industries where time pressures had become chronic were teaching, the health service and air-traffic control.

Mr Lewis said that the marketing industry's record for sacking directors when things got tough was second only to the revolving-door syndrome suffered by football managers: a ruthlessness that contributed to high levels of "fear" throughout all echelons of the industry.

While few media people could compare the aggravation of getting out on time a TV programme, or a radio commercial, with the problems of teaching in an inner-city school — where his survey finds even higher levels of stress — Dr Lewis believed that the innate creativity of media types had its own problems.

"Although it is true that marketing and media attract a certain sort of person — chiefly one who needs a

regular adrenalin buzz — many of the people we talked to felt they were increasingly compromised by what they did and wanted to prove themselves in a different field.

"Unfortunately, very few of the people who believe they should be producing a Booker Prize-winner, rather than writing clever slogans for dog-food or beans, actually have the talent to do so. This too can lead to great frustration."

Delegates to the conference were told that to minimise stress, they should value and maintain relationships with people they feel they could trust. While marketing and media are not renowned for their high levels of marital fidelity, it was important, said Dr Lewis, that people under pressure at work should have someone to confide in at night.

"Stress and depression can have a chronic effect on the libido," he said. "and this can lead to all sorts of problems at home."

In the survey, almost two thirds of employers said they believed stress to be a significant factor in illness; while among employees, 98 per cent of the sample said the same.

Only a third of employees believed that their companies were aware of soaring stress levels and were taking practical steps to help. Another third said that employers were aware of stress problems but did nothing to alleviate them, while the remainder said that their employers were oblivious to the problem.

One of Dr Lewis's practical solutions to stress was what he called the "hand-warming exercise," where an individual imagines his or her dominant hand getting warmer and warmer. The ensuing flow of blood throughout the body can lead to an immediate feeling of wellbeing, he told the conference.

# Public flogging for a lover of privacy

**I**t is the divorce story of the decade, according to the *Daily Mail* — and editors who suffered the lash from Earl Spencer after the death of his sister, Diana, Princess of Wales, are relishing his day-by-day discomfiture at each new revelation about his seemingly callous treatment of his wife and lovers.

On the day of the Princess's death, Spencer savaged the British tabloids, declaring that editors and proprietors who had paid paparazzi had "blood on their hands". He twisted the knife at the funeral when he said that the Princess's "genuine goodness" threatened those at the "opposite end of the moral spectrum", a transparent attack on tabloid editors.

Aware that their readers shared Spencer's views, even perhaps aware that the accusation had some truth, editors did not rise to Spencer's attacks, even though many probably knew the details of his private life that are now being revealed. So The Lord of *Held* magazine claimed the moral high ground. Sadly for Spencer, now portrayed in *The Sun* as "Lord Lovecheat" and "Lord of the Flings", the claim no longer holds.

and Spencer has removed himself from the upper end of the moral spectrum without any contribution from the tabloids.

The Spencer divorce saga has all the ingredients that make a story riveting — a millionaire lord of the realm, a spurned wife, a string of lovers (also apparently spurned) and a quarrel over how much a divorced wife is worth: a wife who was summoned to the bathroom and told she was being divorced while mild soap was applied to her body in the bath. Simultaneously ashamed by our prurience but with an insatiable appetite for gossip, we long to know what happens next when aristocratic toffs fall out.

As the headlines suggest, it is not only tabloid editors who have had a field day. "Earl Spencer Cheated With 12 Women In 5 Months" (*The Sun*), "Earl admitted he was a cruel, vicious bully" (*The Daily Telegraph*). "Bully Spencer kept me from Diana's funeral" (*Daily Mail*), "Spencer I can't afford divorce claim. I only earn £1 million a year" (a gift for *The Guardian*).

The accusations and counter-accusations in Cape Town were also a gift to editors campaigning against a law of privacy. As the *Daily Mail* was quick to point out, what right has a man who behaves in this fashion

to set himself up as a campaigner for a law of privacy? Spencer's attitude was "old-fashioned lordly arrogance masquerading as high principle", said Henry Porter.

The aristocracy has also rallied behind Lady Spencer. Angela Levin, a biographer of Spencer's father, suggested in the *Daily Mail* that Spencer was a product of nature and nurture. Both his father and grandfather had treated their wives in similar fashion. In *The Times*, Maureen Freely celebrated the rise of "matriarch" power.

At *The Mirror*, the Editor, Piers Morgan, was resisting any temptation to gloat, even though in 1995 when he edited the *News of the World* he was the subject of a successful complaint by Earl Spencer to the Press Complaints Commission about invasion of privacy. Morgan had published pictures of Lady Spencer at a private clinic and was publicly rebuked by Rupert Murdoch.

Spencer has been naive at best, foolish at worst, he believes. If he had settled out of court, his serial adultery would have remained undiscovered. It was he who had made himself the nation's moral guardian. Now he has got his come-uppance.

Yet as *The Times* reported yesterday, Spencer and his wife have lodged a joint complaint to the European Court of Human Rights accusing the Government of failing to protect their privacy by failing to prevent publication of the 1995 pictures. They are using Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights — now being incorporated into British law — which protects rights to privacy for private and family lives, homes and correspondence.

Editors rightly fear that a privacy law is thus being introduced to Britain by the back door, although Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, indicated this week that the PCC could become the privacy tribunal if it set up a fund for victims of press intrusion and thereby sidelined the threat of judges assuming the task.

No such tribunal, however, would have saved Spencer his embarrassment this week. The cruel paradox for Spencer is that he apparently hoped a South African court would be less prodigal than a British court in deciding on Lady Spencer's divorce settlement. Yet had he initiated the case in Britain, most of the salacious detail in the affidavits would not have emerged for public consumption. That bit of privacy was already protected by British law.

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الجبل



Hocine's photograph of a mother collapsing as she discovers her eight children have been murdered brought Algeria's horror home to the world

## Icon of a hidden war

**T**his is a picture of a mother on her knees supported by another mother. It is, in short, a Piëta: an image carrying a wealth of our own cultural baggage. The Madonna in Hell. One more massacre in Algeria, this time in Bentahia, a village a few kilometres from Algiers. The icon is timeless, not a news picture; but then news has little meaning in Algeria today.

Stripped of everything else, this photograph is about grief; grief so intense that we can see in our mind's eye the rows of corpses lined up in the early hours of the morning. Its use on the front pages of most French, Spanish, Italian and Lebanese dailies, plus the *International Herald Tribune*, *The Washington Post* and the *Los Angeles Times* helped to create an icon of the war.

It carries a weight of emotion – and some information: "The woman below has just lost all eight of her children; the woman supporting her has just lost her parents." All murdered in Bentahia. The photographer, Hocine, is Agence France Presse's (AFP) only accredited photographer in Algeria. Why, he muses, was it this particular shot that caught the imagination of the media? Events the day after the

**Michel Guerrin tells the story behind the photograph that awoke the world to Algeria's horrific conflict**

massacre at Bentahia on September 22 illustrate the difficulties of being a photographer in a country where, according to a local press photographer, "a camera is considered more dangerous than a Kalashnikov."

Alerted to the massacre, a few photographers reached the site around 9am. "I was stopped by police in plain clothes four or five times. I couldn't get my camera out," says Hocine.

"The bodies of the victims had been laid out in a school. There was no way of getting in without running the gauntlet of the people who were outside."

To find out exactly how many had been massacred, a reporter from the newspaper *Al Watan* managed to get into the cemetery. "The official figure was 85 dead; we made it 25," he says.

Getting the news out has become even more difficult since the massacre at Rais on August 29. While there is no formal ban, getting a picture is purely a matter of luck:

what time the photographer arrives there, the mood of the police, what sort of deal negotiated. "It's a game

of hide and seek," says one photographer, who uses a tiny spy camera to worm his way in. Even for him, he says, things have got "much tougher". Which is why Hocine goes for pictures that probe beyond the surface, "more about emotions than news".

Hocine's famous photograph was not, therefore, taken in the village but at Zmari hospital on the outskirts of Algiers, where mothers had gathered in the hope of discovering survivors. They were not allowed inside the hospital, but searched through the lists of names pinned up at the entrance.

After discovering that there was no hope for any of her eight children, the woman in his photograph crumpled to the ground, almost fainting. Hocine leant over and snapped while the police were otherwise occupied. He removed the film and jumbled it with others in his bag. Moments later, the new film was stripped out of his camera by the police, but the one that mattered survived. At 3.22pm the same day, the film was being distributed worldwide via AFP.

Hocine is one of around 20 press

photographers who work for the Algerian dailies. Faced with the additional problem of visas and insurance, there are few foreign photographers on the scene.

The job of gathering the evidence of a country at war is left to a younger generation of Algerian photographers, "most of them well under 25 years old," according to one reporter. They have neither experience nor training, yet they have "a burning desire to break the surface," "more about emotions than news".

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The result is the only positive development in this sorry tale. Wieden & Kennedy will carry out its decade-long threat to open in Atlanta, and Microsoft in Atlanta, for example, what to do. However, in today's global marketing business, the local staff might huff and puff a while, but in the end they will be forced to toe the company line.

While cynically acknowledging that it was unlikely to do so without guaranteed Nike business, it will be the most interesting and refreshing start-up to hit London in years.

Wieden's other major American clients are Microsoft and Coca-Cola. Together with Nike they form a list any start-up would kill for, although it doesn't have them here – yet. While the agency is bound to be restricted by Nike as to what other clients it might handle initially, it is unlikely to be long before it becomes a major force, pitching for some of the best accounts around.

So Nike staged a review. We will never discover how the UK agencies, Wieden & Kennedy, and the rest of the team fared. The rest of the team fared well. Rainey Kelly Campbell Roalfe, the UK's last wholly successful start-up.

It is difficult to comprehend the ripples this sent around the industry. General Motors is one of those clients that has long been

deemed rock solid within a giant multinational agency grouping – in this case the Lowe Group and McCann-Erickson, both subsidiaries of the giant Interpublic Group (IPG).

Multinational agencies are traditionally built on such clients. They open offices around the world on the promise of business like GM's. There remains an overall trend towards global, or at least regional, centralisation of business into one agency or group.

But ever since Coca-Cola humiliates the IPG subsidiary McCann-Erickson in the early Nineties by putting business into the Creative Artists Agency, then run by Michael Ovitz, there has been a significant stream of clients such as Sony, Microsoft, Levi's, and now GM, that have bucked this trend.

It all goes to add to the feeling that after 25 years of relative inertia, when things were done as they always had been done, there is a growing air of anything goes. Giant clients such as Unilever are going outside their agency and appointing tiny start-ups with new silly names such as Mother, to the panic and consternation of the big boys. While Rainey Kelly Campbell Roalfe, the UK's last wholly successful start-up.

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## Nike joins trend for giving agencies the boot



pressure on the UK agency that was the only hold on advertising's joint-sixth account (along with Levi's). However, Nike chose to stay loyal to the agency then known as Simons Palmer Denton Clemow and Johnson, ignoring its silly name because of its successful work.

However, when Simons Palmer etc merged with TBWA earlier this year, it gave Nike an excuse to look around. It is the kind of advertiser that had begun to believe its own press about how cool it is, and some at Nike felt they were just another client at the new TBWA Simons Palmer, where others include Nissan, *The Sun*, Goldfish and Sony.

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THE TIMES FRIDAY NOVEMBER 28 1997

## Court of Appeal

## Law Report November 28 1997

## House of Lords

## Extraordinary power of Home Secretary

*Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Stafford*

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Morris and Lord Justice Buxton (Judgment November 26)

The extraordinary wide discretion conferred on the Secretary of State for the Home Department by section 29 of the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997, which replaced section 35 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, entitled him to refuse to release a mandatory life sentence prisoner after expiry of the punitive term on the ground that, although not thought to present a risk, if released, of committing a violent or sexual offence, he might commit some other imprisonable offence or fail to comply with the requirements of his life licence.

The Court of Appeal considered when allowing the Home Secretary's appeal from Mr Justice Collins who had granted an application for judicial review by Dennis Stafford of the Home Secretary's refusal to direct his release following recommendation by the Parole Board that he should do so.

In 1967 the applicant, with a co-defendant, had been convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment. Following his release in 1979 on life licence, and in breach of its terms, he went to South Africa where he remained apparently without permission or cancellation of criminal convictions.

His licence was revoked and in 1969, on his return on a false passport, for use of which he was fined, he was detained in prison. In 1991, following a recommendation by the Parole Board he was again released on licence, but in 1994 after conviction of conspiracy to forge travellers' cheques and British passports for which he was sentenced to six years his licence was revoked.

In 1996 the Parole Board recommended his release, concluding that he presented a very low risk of serious re-offending. The Home Secretary refused to direct release on the grounds that he had failed to comply with requirements of earlier licences and, although not presenting a significant risk of committing further offences of violence, he might commit further serious offences.

He accordingly directed that the applicant be moved to an open prison with a formal review to

begin two years after his arrival there.

Mr David Pannick, QC and Miss Eleanor Grey for the Home Secretary; Mr Tim Owen for the applicant.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, tracing chronologically the development of the current law on the present question, referred to the statement made in November 1983 (*Hansard* [HC WA cols 505-6]) by Mr Len Brittan describing the procedures he proposed to introduce for handling the release of mandatory life sentence prisoners; in *Re Findlay* ([1985] AC 318); *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Handcomb* ([1988] 86 Cr App R 59); *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Benson* ([1991] 1 WLR 154); *R v Parole Board, Ex parte Bradley* ([1991] 1 WLR 154); *R v Wilson and Gunnell v United Kingdom* ([1990] 15 EHRR 66).

His Lordship said that section 34 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 deprived the secretary of state of any effective role in relation to discretionary life sentence prisoners. The punitive term was fixed by the sentencing judge, the assessment of risk was made by the Parole Board whose sole concern in that assessment, the section made plain, was with the protection of the public.

That had to be understood in the context of the violent or sexual offence for which prisoners had in the first place been sentenced.

That was, however, in sharp contrast to section 35 which made plain that in the case of mandatory life sentence prisoners, the secretary of state retained a broad discretion to refer, or not refer cases to the board and to release, or not to release, the only explicit constraint being that he might not release where the board, having been consulted, recommended no release.

It was during the parliamentary debates on the 1991 legislation that the Home Office Minister advanced the view that a mandatory life sentence prisoner was the only ground on which continued detention could be justified once the prisoner had served the punitive term fixed for his case.

However, section 29 of the 1997 Act, which replaced section 35 of the 1991 Act, preserved a different regime for mandatory life sentence prisoners, their release being sub-

ject only to the secretary of state's discretion.

The only statutory constraint on that exercise was that he might not, subject to section 36 of the 1991 Act and section 30 of the 1997 Act, release such a prisoner unless recommended by the Parole Board to do so and after consultation with the Lord Chief Justice together with the trial judge if available.

He also referred to *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Dingley* ([1991] 1 WLR 21); *R v Parole Board, Ex parte Benson* ([1991] 1 WLR 154); *R v Wilson and Gunnell v United Kingdom* ([1990] 15 EHRR 66).

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That was, however, in sharp contrast to section 35 which made plain that in the case of mandatory life sentence prisoners, the secretary of state retained a broad discretion to refer, or not refer cases to the board and to release, or not to release, the only explicit constraint being that he might not release where the board, having been consulted, recommended no release.

It was during the parliamentary debates on the 1991 legislation that the Home Office Minister advanced the view that a mandatory life sentence prisoner was the only ground on which continued detention could be justified once the prisoner had served the punitive term fixed for his case.

However, section 29 of the 1997 Act, which replaced section 35 of the 1991 Act, preserved a different regime for mandatory life sentence prisoners, their release being sub-

ject only to the secretary of state's discretion.

The only statutory constraint on that exercise was that he might not, subject to section 36 of the 1991 Act and section 30 of the 1997 Act, release such a prisoner unless recommended by the Parole Board to do so and after consultation with the Lord Chief Justice together with the trial judge if available.

He was not obliged to direct release even if recommended to do so and in deciding whether to release he might properly have regard to considerations of broader character than danger to the public. Factors relevant to release included policy reasons, public acceptability and the need to maintain public confidence in the criminal justice system.

He had publicly directed the Parole Board that in exercising his discretion to release such a prisoner he took account of matters going beyond the risk posed by the prisoner and that he was concerned with the wider political implications of release, including the effect on public "deterrence" in the life sentence system which release might have and the public response to the release of such a prisoner.

He had publicly directed the Parole Board that before recommending release it should consider whether the risk of the prisoner committing further imprisonable offences after release was minimal and whether the prisoner was likely to comply with the conditions of his life licence and the requirements of supervision.

Having referred to *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Venables and Thompson* ([1997] 3 WLR 29) and *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Pierson* ([1997] 3 WLR 422) his Lordship said that as judges in the various cases had treated, and as the Home Secretary plainly accepted, in relation to discretionary life sentence prisoners, detainees and those detained during her Majesty's pleasure, danger to the public was the only ground on which continued detention could be justified once the prisoner had served the punitive term fixed for his case.

He had announced what his policy was and the decision now challenged was not a departure from it. His direction to the board in March 1993 and his par-

liamentary answer of July 27, 1993 were couched in broad terms.

His Lordship did not accept that the word "risk" there used was properly to be understood as limited to the risk of violent or sexual offending. The Home Secretary had not said so.

It was not for the court to circumscribe the effect of his general references to "a further imprisonable offence", "re-offending" and "further offences".

The system of release on life licence could reasonably be thought to be brought into disrepute if those so released committed serious offences of dishonesty or fraud or the like on which they had been released.

It was irrelevant whether members of the court, as individuals, agreed or disagreed with that view. As judges, their only concern was with the lawfulness of the Home Secretary's conduct.

The court had to bear in mind that Parliament had seen fit to confer on him an extraordinarily wide discretion which he had not narrowed in the way suggested.

Although allowing the appeal and dismissing the application for judicial review, the facts of the case caused his Lordship considerable concern.

The term the applicant now faced had not been imposed by way of punishment, because he had already served the punitive term which his serious previous offences had been thought to merit. The term had not been imposed because he was thought to present a danger to the public.

It was not submitted that it bore any relation to the gravity of any future imprisonable offence which he might commit that it was needed to ensure future compliance with the terms of his life licence.

The imposition of what was in effect a substantial term of imprisonment by the exercise of executive discretion, without trial, lay or otherwise, with ordinary concepts of the rule of law.

His Lordship hoped the Home Secretary might, even now, think it right to give further consideration to the case.

Lord Justice Morris delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Buxton delivered a judgement concurring in the result.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Michael Purdon, Newcastle upon Tyne.

## Claiming privilege against self-incrimination

*Downie and Others v Coe and Others*

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Justice Morris and Lord Justice Buxton (Judgment November 5)

The privilege against self-incrimination, whether as protection against a question in the witness box or an interrogatory or against disclosing a document on discovery, had to be claimed on oath by the person who sought to rely on it, even if support and substantiation for the claim might come from elsewhere.

Where, therefore, privilege was claimed on affidavit by a solicitor on his client's behalf the claim was not properly made.

The Court of Appeal so stated when dismissing an appeal by the first and second defendants, Alan Coe and David Bentham, from Mr J.

*Griffith-Williams, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, who had required them to comply with an order for discovery of, inter alia, bank and building society statements in an action brought against them and the third defendant, Roy Bonewell, by the plaintiffs, Nicholas Downie, John Martin, Sandra Goldstone and Derek Kenward, in respect of the defendants' alleged misappropriation of funds.*

Mr Peter Herrity for Mr Coe; Mr John Causier for Mr Bentham; Mr Michael McParland for the plaintiffs.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that in submitting that the privilege against self-incrimination had not been properly claimed the plaintiffs had relied on a series of authorities which included *Webb v East* ([1980] 5 Exch 109); *Lamb v Munster* ([1982] 10 QB 20).

That was clearly the established practice was clearly shown by those authorities.

It was plain that the claimant did not have to give chapter and verse to show why disclosure, or answering a question, or an interrogatory, might incriminate him. As Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, pointed out in *Rio Tinto Zinc Corporation v Westinghouse*

it was plain that the claimant had not been properly made and as a technical matter the plaintiffs would be entitled to resist the

claim on that ground alone.

However, his Lordship considered that would be an extremely technical and unsatisfactory basis on which to resolve the appeal. He accordingly reviewed the circumstances of the case and concluded on the facts that the claim could not be made out.

That rule did not however in any way dispense with the need for a claim to be made on oath by the claimant, even if support for the claim and its substantiation came from elsewhere.

In the present case it was clear beyond argument that the claim had not been properly made and as a technical matter the plaintiffs would be entitled to resist the

claim on that ground alone.

His Lordship considered that that would be an extremely technical and unsatisfactory basis on which to resolve the appeal. He accordingly reviewed the circumstances of the case and concluded on the facts that the claim could not be made out.

His Lordship sympathised with the pursuers' complaint that the question of contribution had been raised late. Clearly, however, the whole matter would require to be addressed in relation to expenses.

His Lordship considered that mean that because of the issue of contribution, he would grant decree absolving all of the defendants other than Stena Offshore. He would accordingly award the pursuers' decree against the defendants for £12,685.57.

Their obligations had been different among the claims that were the subject of proceedings under the indemnity. If the pursuers recovered them, then the underwriters would have rights of subrogation. There was an uninsured element, but in only one of the present seven cases, against Stena Offshore, had the pursuers required to make a settlement payment of £12,685.57 of their own resources.

A party could only recover under an indemnity in respect of loss incurred. The defendants' point was that the pursuers had already been compensated by their insurers and could not be compensated twice.

The losses covered by, and the beneficiaries of the insurance and the indemnities were the same.

Where in such a case there were two indemnifiers their liability was joint and several, and if either paid more than his share then he was entitled to relief from his co-contractors to the extent of their proportionate share.

However different the genesis of the contracts, there could be no doubt that the pursuers' insurers and the contractors, if they had any obligations to OPCA and the defendants, had it under contract of indemnity.

It was clear from the authorities that the contracts gave rise to the joint debt did not need to be

paid by the claimants.

If a party enjoyed the benefit of two or more indemnities covering the same loss and he recovered his whole loss it was difficult to see on what principle he retained a right to enforce his indemnity against the non-paying indemnifier. His loss had been satisfied.

There was no principle that entitled him to enforce his loss from the indemnifier as there was in the case of a wrongdoer. Perhaps if the indemnities had been granted to cover only facts occasioned by the indemnifier's own negligence some nice ques-

tions would arise, but that was not the case here. No one suggested that the defendants had been negligent.

The question ought to be settled on the basis of principle rather than by reference to any rigid classification such as insurance and non-insurance. The law had rejected attempts to confine contribution to particular categories of insurance.

His Lordship's conclusion therefore was that the insurers of OPCA and the participants did not have any right of subrogation in respect of the indemnities granted by the defendants. They had no title or interest to sue. If the insurers wanted to recover their outlay that would have to be by way of a separate action based on contribution.

His Lordship sympathised with the pursuers' complaint that the question of contribution had been raised late. Clearly, however, the whole matter would require to be addressed in relation to expenses.

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gent.

## Correction

In *Bilton v Foster Highlands Ltd* ([1994] 1 AC 130) Lord Woolf had expressed the view that the law of contribution applied to a contrac-

## Impact of pension on amount of damages

*Longden v British Coal Corporation*

Before Lord Gulf of Chievely, Lord Lynn of Hadley, Lord Steyn, Lord Hope of Craighead and Lord Clyde

[Speeches November 27]

Where an employee received an incapacity pension from a contributory scheme that provided for either an incapacity pension or a retirement pension, the periodic payments received were not deductible from that part of an award of damages for personal injuries representing loss of retirement pension at the normal pension age.

The payments that he had received were deducted from the lump sum awarded.

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## All Blacks see red at accusations by Ackford of cheating

By MARK SOUSTER

THERE was no denying New Zealand's anger yesterday at accusations that the All Blacks, while a superb team, were also superb cheats. John Hart, their coach, was incensed by allegations that his side deliberately broke the law during the first Test against England at Old Trafford.

Hart dismissed comments by Paul Ackford, the former England international, as "contemptuous. Ackford, in effect, said yesterday that New Zealand had got cheating down to a fine art and that "cheats prospered" in Manchester through the use of "cynical, illegal" tactics.

He claimed that New Zealand's willingness to concede successive penalties during the first half to prevent a try was as intentional as it was skilful.

"I am extremely disappointed," Hart said. "This All Black side has attained what it has attained by playing the game the right way."

Mike Banks, the manager, said: "In the two years I have worked with John, at no stage has he expanded the theory that the All Blacks should transgress the laws."

Hart said New Zealand had sufficient confidence in their defensive qualities. "We do not go out to kill the ball, we go out to try to avoid penalties," he said. "There are going to be times when a side goes over, but not intentionally. You are driving with force and you end up over the ball. We do not go out to stop the game intentionally. To be called cheats is a really sad day and is right out of place with what we are trying to achieve."

Returning to more routine matters, Hart confirmed that Zinzan Brooke, the one slight injury doubt, would be fit to face Wales at Wembley tomorrow.

Kevin Bowring, the Wales coach, was reluctant to be drawn into the future, but said that gamesmanship was part of professional sport and that New Zealand "were adept at exploiting that area".

He also took time to talk to Wayne Erickson, the match referee tomorrow.

Bowring last night invited Simon Weston, the former Welsh Guardsman, to talk to the squad at their Buckinghamshire hotel. Weston was badly injured during the Falklands War and his experiences and his ability to triumph over adversity are attributes from which Bowring hopes and expects his team to draw strength tomorrow.

## RUGBY UNION: SOUTH AFRICA DETERMINED TO REGISTER CLEAN SWEEP

# England call up Greenstock

By DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

SOUTH AFRICA officials make no bones about their ambition for the final phase of their international season. To make up for disappointments earlier this year, they aim to win all five of their matches in Europe. Already three victories are in the bag, against France and Italy, and England at Twickenham tomorrow represent the fourth fixture.

"If the national side is winning, every other aspect of our rugby is strengthened," Jake White, their technical assistant, said. "Nick Mallett [the coach] hasn't just taken 15 players and put them on the field, he is selling the whole game throughout the country but development is determined by the amount of games you win. It's critical we go home with five out of five."

White, 33, will become manager of coaching for Gauteng when the tour ends against Scotland on December 6, but he takes great satisfaction at the advance of players such as Krynaau Otto, who previously had been underrated. Otto, the Northern Transvaal lock, has spent much of his Springbok career as back-up but has won selection alongside the experienced Mark Andrews on merit during the visit to France.

"One of the differences between Saturday's teams is the ability to score tries," White observed. "Nick Mallett has a passion for scoring tries." South Africa scored nine against Italy and 12 in the two internationals with France; seven of those 21 have come from Pieter Rossouw, the Western Province wing, whose total now is ten from nine appearances.

The other aspect relevant to the game tomorrow is the success of the British Isles in South Africa last summer. This is the nearest South Africa will come to playing a "return" match: eight members of England's XV were Lions and that has added zest to South Africa's preparations even if Mallett described this as a "new phase" after distinctly mixed results during eight internationals under the old management earlier this year.

England, he has been telling his team, are the true grand-slam side. "They have been the best five nations' side for the last five years," he said.

For me, they are the real grand-slam winners, not France. England should never have lost the decider last season and we have to remember that last week in Paris [when South Africa won 52-10] both the weather and the French were in our favour — the first because it was sympathetic to our attacking style



Greenstock, capped three times, has forced his way into the team with some robust performances

and the second because France played so poorly.

"England will not be the same. They played with great commitment and passion against New Zealand and we may have to play differently to win. We would like to play flamboyantly and score tries but if the defence is good, we will have to grind out a win."

England made four changes of personnel from the Xv that lost 25-8 to the All Blacks and added a fifth yesterday when Phil de Glanville withdrew because of damaged ankle ligaments. His replacement in the centre, Nick Greenstock, will be winning his fourth cap and joins

John Bentley, Darren Garforth and Danny Grewcock in playing his first international at Twickenham.

"Phil was playing extremely well and it is unfortunate he will not have the opportunity to capitalise on his good form," Lawrence Dallaglio, the captain, said. "But one of the benefits we have is that English rugby is creating an extremely competitive environment. People are coming in and those left out are dying to get back. Nick Greenstock has forced his way in with some robust performances and he will look to improve his game at the higher level."

Greenstock, 24, earlier this month, won his first three caps in Argentina and against Australia in Sydney last July, a match where he felt his display might have warranted inclusion in England's initial squad this season. He played alongside Matt Allen, of Northampton, against the All Blacks for Emerging England at Huddersfield and for the English Rugby Partnership XV in Bristol, the pair forming a particularly effective partnership in the latter game.

Mike Catt, who kicked so poorly against New Zealand at Old Trafford will be the first-choice goalkicker, with Matt Dawson as back-up.

## Howley ready for belated chance on greatest stage

Mark Souster on the Wales scrum half keen to meet twin towers of his position

unbelievable day," Howley, who will be facing New Zealand for the first time, said.

There is a discernible sense of optimism about Wales at the moment, buoyed by five successive victories and the belief that, after two years, the master-plan of Kevin Bowring, the coach, is beginning to bear fruit. They have also drawn encouragement from the manner in which England and the English Rugby Partnership XV confronted the challenge of the All Blacks head on.

What happened in South Africa is still a sore point even if the shoulder is not, but another day brings another challenge and tomorrow it is Justin Marshall, the New Zealand captain, who will be Howley's opponent.

Their confrontation will be one of several fascinating personal duels within the international. Depending on who you listen to, both men — together with Van der Westhuizen — are rivals for the accolade of the world's best scrum half.

Having confirmed his rehabilitation as a replacement against Tonga, Howley, 27, will win his eighteenth cap on the wide open spaces of Wembley.

Playing New Zealand won't make up for the Lions tour

can for as long as we can. We will take the challenge to New Zealand.

"It is no good just accepting defeat and defending for 80 minutes. England showed that they are only human beings. We will have to be at the top of our game to beat them but we intend to attack the space and the areas where we think there are slight weaknesses. With the back line we have a look a great prospect. If our front five can give us some ball and a platform to work off we can come out with a bit

more respect than we have done in recent years."

Howley's speed off the mark, eye for a gap and try-scoring ability should ensure that the New Zealand back row have the hands full. He scored the final international try for Wales at the National Stadium against England in March and his return from the miseries of England will be complete if he can conjure another one to help Wales to their first victory over New Zealand in 44 years and 13 attempts.

## LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

### LEGAL NOTICES

#### NOTICE OF 1997 MEETING OF CREDITORS

Foothill Carriages & Stables Limited

Trading Address: Lambes Farm, Buntingford, Bedfordshire, SG9 9JL.

Company Number: 3172193.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

to creditors of Foothill Carriages & Stables Limited, of the above address, that a meeting of the creditors of the company will be held at Columbus Centre, Market Street, Buntingford, SG9 9JL on 10 December 1997 at 10.30 a.m. for the purpose mentioned in Sections 21 and 22 of the Insolvency Act 1986.

At the meeting, the creditors will be entitled to receive payment of debts or credits due or to become due to the company.

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Cruyff to remain in Dutch hospital for tests

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

**JOHAN CRUYFF**, Holland's greatest player, was admitted to an Amsterdam hospital yesterday complaining of chest pains. Doctors said that he was "in a satisfactory condition," but would be kept under observation for a week.

"He called an ambulance and was brought here," a spokesman for the University Hospital said. "He will be undergoing extensive tests."

Cruyff, 50, underwent bypass surgery in 1991 after suffering a heart attack while he was manager of Barcelona. He had recently been working as a football commentator on Dutch television.

Officials from Bayer Leverkusen are to protest to Uefa about the treatment of their supporters by Belgian police after the Champions' League match against SK Lierse in Ghent on Wednesday night.

**Reiner Calmund**, manager of the German club, claimed that he had witnessed supporters being doused with water and beaten with sticks by Belgian police. "They were hitting women and older people. People lying on the ground were beaten. It was the worst thing I've seen in football," Calmund said. Belgian police said that they had acted in self-defence.

**Paul Trollope** has decided to leave Derby County to become the second Wales international to join Fulham in as many days. The Nationwide League second division side will pay Derby £50,000 for the midfield player, with £50,000 to follow if they secure promotion. Fulham also completed the signing yesterday of Steve McNamee, the Bolton Wanderers defender, for £100,000.

Trollope, 25, will link up with his fellow Welshman, Alan Neilson, who moved from Southampton for £250,000 on Tuesday. The signings take Fulham's spending past £4.5 million since Kevin Keegan and Ray Wilkins were brought to the club by Mohamed Al Fayed.

**Chris Bart-Williams** of Nottingham Forest, is to undergo a cartilage operation next week and will be out of action until March.

The Bolivia striker, Jaime Moreno, returned to Middlesbrough yesterday on a three-month loan from the US Major League club, DC United.

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THE TIMES FRIDAY NOVEMBER 28 1997

## FOOTBALL

# Gross ready to bank on bonus at Tottenham

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

**SWITZERLAND** is renowned for its secret bank accounts and utter discretion in matters of finance. Not so Christian Gross, the country's most famous recent export, the newly appointed head coach of Tottenham Hotspur. Gross, formerly of Grasshopper Zurich, has revealed that he will be paid a minimum of £450,000 a year as he tries to rescue Tottenham from the FA Carling Premiership mire.

Gross, 43, signed an 18-month contract at White Hart Lane eight days ago, shortly after Gerry Francis resigned. Although reluctant to share his innermost thoughts with the English media, he discussed his new deal with *Tages-Anzeiger*, the Swiss daily newspaper, this week.

"All told, I'll be earning more than SwFr 1 million (about £450,000) a season," he said. "After tax it will be a little less than SwFr 1 million, but I will receive bonuses on top of the basic salary." Presumably, he will be suitably rewarded if he guides Tottenham away from relegation.

Gross said that he would have declined the offer of Alan Sugar, the Tottenham chairman, had Grasshopper not lost to FC Croatia Zagreb in the Uefa Cup and that he was aware he was not the first choice for the job. Sugar had preferred Ottmar Hitzfeld, the former Borussia Dortmund coach who is now general manager at the Bundesliga club.

"If we had beaten Zagreb and remained in Europe, the deal that brought me to Tottenham would not have come about," Gross said. "Ottmar was offered the chance before me, but he turned it down and put in a very good reference for me."

"We have the backing of every football authority and have taken legal advice at the highest level. The Wimbledon people can go to the European Commission or whoever they like. Very simply, we will not allow this to happen."

**David Carole**, a midfield player, has joined Aston Villa for a nominal fee from Västerås, the Swedish side, after a brief trial at Villa Park. Villa will make further payments for the 17-year-old if he breaks into the first team.

## SNOOKER

# Newcomer Stevens shows maturity of a veteran

BY PHIL YATES

**CONTINUING** to substitute the anonymity of the Llanelli and District League for a national spotlight, Matthew Stevens reached the semi-finals of a second consecutive world-ranking tournament in Preston yesterday.

Stevens, a semi-finalist at the Grand Prix last month, eased through to the corona stage of the Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom championship with the assurance of a veteran as he scored a 9-1 victory over Martin Dziewialkowski, whose giant-killing march was ended.

"I've had to miss two league

matches and my team lost 7-0 last night." Stevens, 20, said with youthful enthusiasm, untroubled by any sense of low-key local engagements being a chore. If he continues to play with such panache, the Terry Griffiths Matchroom Club will surely be forced to look for a new star player.

Stevens constructed a 143 total clearance to earn the pre-television highest-break prize of £1500 during a 9-3 win over Tony Drago, the No 11 seed, in the last 32 before defeating Mark Williams, the world

# Good news for NatWest Card Plus customers

NatWest announces that from 1 December 1997, the interest rate for its Card Plus account for 11-20 year olds will be increased to:

Gross interest per annum\* 5.00%  
Gross CAR\*\* 5.12%  
Net interest per annum 4.00%

\* Where appropriate, lower rate for (currently 20%) will be deducted at source from interest accrued or paid (which may be reclaimed by resident non-taxpayers). Subject to the required registration form, interest will be paid gross. The Gross Rate is the rate paid before deducting income tax.  
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# Fast forward Davies seeks more reruns

Nick Szczepanik  
meets a young player making a striking impact on the Premiership

**W**hen Kevin Davies turned Philippe Albert, strolled past Darren Peacock and knocked the ball nonchalantly beyond the advancing Shaka Hislop with the outside of his right foot after only five minutes of Southampton's match at St James' Park on Saturday, it could have been the goal of his career.

But for Davies, 20, in his first season in the FA Carling Premiership, it was not even his best of the month. That came against Everton in a televised game at Goodison Park — or so he recalled. "I haven't watched Match of the Day since I've played here," Davies said. "My brother and mother tape it, but I've not seen the goal at Newcastle and only caught a glimpse of the one at Everton. It doesn't affect me."

It is to be hoped that the tapes are well looked after, for there are several memorable strikes among his ten goals for Southampton — not a bad return for a player who scored only seven for Chesterfield last season.

He made his Chesterfield debut at 16, after being rejected by Sheffield United, the club he supported, and had played more than 100 League games when Graeme Souness, then the manager of Southampton, signed him in June. Souness departed ten days later, to be replaced by David Jones, but Davies saw a chance to start on an equal footing with established players.

Nevertheless, the early part of the season was uncomfortable for both the new men, even when Davies's first goal for Southampton's upturn coincided with him claiming a regular spot. He may not watch himself on television, but he has begun to attract the attention of a wider public.

Davies, who has appeared



After initially suffering from homesickness, Davies is now happy and settled in the Southampton dressing-room

as a substitute for the England under-21 team, has clear aims and was not surprised to find himself in the first team. "When I signed, I saw there was a chance to break into a

team with a small squad," he said. "I rise to a challenge. I love going out and facing Liverpool or Everton but I've only scored once in any match. I'm scoring goals, but I could score more."

Davies and Terry Cooper, the Southampton assistant manager under both Souness and Jones, use the same words to describe his effect on defenders, "a handful". "It's a big jump from the second division to the Premiership, but he's taken it in his stride," Cooper said.

He will learn from colleagues such as David Hurst, signed from Sheffield Wednesday, Southampton's opponents at The Dell tomorrow.

Among their supporters will be Davies's father and, while most eyes will be on Hurst's efforts against his former employer, a supporter of their greatest rivals may be the one who does the damage.

# Hinckley knit together for Trophy quest

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY WALTER GAMMIE

A SERIOUS question arose after two rival clubs had merged: what should the new club take as its nickname?

With the Robins, of Hinckley Athletic, and the Eagles, of Hinckley Town, no more, a competition was held in a local newspaper — and the hosiery tradition of the Leicestershire town is now celebrated by the Knitters of Hinckley United.

This afternoon, Hinckley's Knitters make a 230-mile trip for an overnight stop in Barrow before playing the Unibond League premier division leaders in an FA Trophy third qualifying-round tie. Having gone through three rounds of the FA Cup before

falling in the fourth qualifying round to Colwyn Bay, Hinckley are bidding to reach the first round proper of the Trophy and the arrival of the Vaughan Conference clubs.

They have already seen off Stafford Rangers, after a replay, and Whitley Town, winners of the FA Carlsberg Vase last season, the latter in an extraordinary match in which Hinckley had a player sent off, went 1-0 down and won 3-1.

Seven players in the Hinckley squad were recruited from Bedworth United by Dean Thomas, the joint-manager

(with John Hanna, the former Athlete manager), who enjoyed considerable success at Bedworth last season.

United play in a red-and-blue-striped kit that is a judicious amalgam of Athletic red and Town claret and blue, and the committee contains seven members from each club. Kevin Downes, the chairman, and Stuart Millidge, the secretary, were both formerly with Town, a precondition laid down by the Dr Martens League for the new club to keep Town's place in its midland division.

The former Hinckley Athletic had

been founded a long time before Hinckley Town, but it was Town who had made the most recent progress in playing terms, Millidge said. Town's problem was that their ground was out of the town centre, so the merger brought the new club to Middle Lane, Athletic's ground, where there are much better gates."

Athletic, who were in the Southern League in the 1950s and 1960s, had been playing in the Midland Alliance. The merger was adopted by 90 per cent of the shareholders. "The past is behind us, we're only thinking to the future now," Millidge said. Starting at Holker Street tomorrow.

# KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE

CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Prodigy shines

It was interesting to observe that Britain's young prodigy, Luke McShane, 13, had to struggle somewhat to achieve his international master title and on a number of occasions narrowly missed the norm before eventually becoming Britain's youngest ever international master. Having jumped that hurdle, though, McShane is now swiftly beginning to challenge for the grandmaster title. Here are two of his wins from the London International.

White: Luke McShane

Black: Angus Dunnington

London, October 1997

Sicilian Defence

King's Indian Defence

White: Daniel Gormally

Black: Luke McShane

London, October 1997

Rb3

Qc5

Re1

b4

Qd4

Qc7

Re8

Ne5

Qd8

Qc6

Qd7

Qc8

Qd9

Qc10

Qd11

Qc12

Qd13

Qc14

Qd15

Qc16

Qd17

Qc18

Qd19

Qc20

Qd21

Qc22

Qd23

Qc24

Qd25

Qc26

Qd27

Qc28

Qd29

Qc30

Qd31

Qc32

Qd33

Qc34

Qd35

Qc36

Qd37

Qc38

Qd39

Qc40

Qd41

Qc42

Qd43

Qc44

Qd45

Qc46

Qd47

Qc48

Qd49

Qc50

Qd51

Qc52

Qd53

Qc54

Qd55

Qc56

Qd57

Merit Cup finishes leg almost four days behind winner

## Dalton finds nowhere to hide

**Edward Gorman sees**  
a great sailor wipe  
the egg from his face  
and hatch a new plan  
for the rest of the race

THIS was the most painful of Whitbread finishes: the great Grant Dalton, in his fifth Whitbread Round the World Race, the winner of the maxi class in the previous race, struggling into Fremantle in seventh place at the end of the second leg, 95 hours behind the leg-winner, Gunnar Krantz, on *Swedish Match*.

In doing so, Dalton, of New Zealand, and his highly rated crew on *Merit Cup* have blown a huge hole in one of the best-prepared Whitbread campaigns, amassing just 48 points for the leg and slipping to fifth place overall. Never, even in their worst nightmares, did Dalton and his team envisage arriving anywhere in seventh place.

On the dock, under a starlit sky, it was agonising to watch as Dalton, or "Dals" as he is known, stepped sheepishly ashore, hands in pockets, to face race officials who, oblivious to the realities of the situation, persevered with the second-leg medal ceremony and then the presentation to Dalton and his crew of two magnums of champagne.

Rarely can such excellent wine have been more predictably and needlessly wasted. Dalton himself declined the

'Never in their worst  
nightmares did they  
envise arriving  
anywhere in seventh'

chance to spray the waiting cameramen, so two of his crew, with ruthless and unsmiling intent, sprayed him instead, emptying the lot without a drop passing their lips.

In the background, not visible but present in the minds of many of those watching, were the all-women crew on *EF Education*. With just 65 miles left to sail as Dalton crossed the line, they must have been glowing with satisfaction. They had not beaten him, but to finish within as little as five hours of *Merit Cup* over 4,600 miles of the Southern Ocean was humiliating for a man who has often had the temerity to say that all-women crews have no place racing against the men in the Whitbread.

Dalton is a decent man, though, and he was big enough to acknowledge not only that he had a little egg on his face, but also that Christine Guillou and her crew on *EF Education* deserved praise for the way in which they have applied themselves during one of the toughest legs in the Whitbread.

"If they had beaten us, I would have stabbed myself through the heart with the dividers on the chart table," Dalton said. "Another of the crew would have done something unprintable with a pineapple." A few minutes later, at the dockside press conference, he added: "They [the women] actually did a really nice job — these are very physical boats and they did a really nice job."

Although admitting that this was the



Dalton tries to put a brave face on his second-leg embarrassment after limping into Fremantle yesterday

worst experience of his long professional sailing career, Dalton came ashore with a bruised ego but showing all the signs of a man ready to fight back. "Obviously we are angry with ourselves, but once my ego has corrected itself, we'll be able to sit down and reflect on what went wrong," he said. "I firmly believe that to win, you have to be consistent. We have stopped

being consistent for a leg and we will have to win the next leg."

It all went irretrievably wrong for *Merit Cup* on the eighth day out from Cape Town, when Dalton and his long-time navigator, Mike Quilter, got themselves caught out to the north while in fourth place. Suddenly, boats behind them that had been prepared to travel additional distances to get

further south, were flying as they got the best of a new low-pressure system, while *Merit Cup* floundered in light winds, quickly slipping 100 miles behind the pack. Soon they were in completely different weather and, while Lawrie Smith, on *Silk Cut*, and the others ahead started stacking up 400-mile days, Dalton was drifting into what he called "delivery mode".

Yesterday he said that he had always aimed to be race leader by the time the fleet reached Auckland, at the end of the fourth leg, if an overall win was to be achieved. In view of this unexpected setback, he has revised his strategy and now hopes to lead by Fort Lauderdale, at the end of the sixth of the nine legs. Dalton also said that he would be employing a new meteorological team to advise Quilter, who would work alongside his existing router, Bob Rice, with whom *Merit Cup* have an exclusive contract.

In common with an increasing number of skippers in this fascinating race, Dalton is delighted that the old elapsed-time scoring system is now history. "Thank heavens for the points system," he said, to howls of laughter all round. "I am a big fan of the points system — there's no doubt about that."



Christine Briand, left, and Bridget Suckling helped to keep EF Education within striking distance of Dalton and Merit Cup on the second leg



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## Clifton seek to travel down road of change

CLIFTON, who face a 600-mile round trip in the English Hockey Association Women's Cup on Sunday, are thankful for a Premier League home game against Sutton Coldfield tomorrow (a Correspondent writes). The fourth-round cup draw against Whitley Bay is a nightmare, according to the Clifton manager, Graham Culliford, who would like a regionalised draw until the last 16.

"Flying on Sunday would have used up our entire Scottish Life sponsorship money of £2,000," he said. "The chosen option of a coach and overnight stay is still a huge expense. Apart from that, it is crucifying the players, who will have a hard future the day before on Saturday."

Clifton, in second place, should maintain their league

position at the expense of a Sutton Coldfield side that has dropped into the relegation zone with only four points from six games.

In other games, Hightown visit Slough in the league and are at home to Canterbury, in the first division, in the cup; Doncaster meet a depleted Ipswich side in the league and Blueharts, of the second division, in the cup; and Olton travel to Trojans in the league and Taunton Vale in the cup.

□ Kerry Moore, a midfield player, and Katy Roberts, a goalkeeper, are the only newcomers to the 1998 England squad of 24 announced yesterday.

SQUAD: H Rose, C Reid, K Roberts, J Benson, S Birrell, K Bowden, P Miller, J Moul, C Voss, K Brown, L Copeland, M Naylor, S Smith, M Clewlow, J Stevenson, T Cullen, J Hart, S Hodge, D Scott, S Scott, F Greenham, K Moore, J Wright, D Marston, Smith, T Miller.

## Reading set sights on double

MANAGERS and coaches generally disapprove of double headers because of the practical strain on players (Sydney Friskin writes). However, nine premier division clubs are involved in the fifth round of the men's English Hockey Association Cup on Sunday and all 12 face a full league programme tomorrow.

The previous winners, Teddington, Guildford and East Grinstead, have been eliminated from the cup competition, leaving the top three sides in the league, Cannock, Southgate and Reading, with their sights on the double this season.

Reading have an easier weekend, having beaten East Grinstead in the fourth round of the cup a fortnight ago and Southgate in the league last Sunday.

With an unchanged side, they have a league engagement against Teddington and a cup-fix against Boriton Tigers. Both are away games.

Cannock, according to Martin Gilbody, their manager, are still shell-shocked after the 6-1 defeat at Canterbury last week, but will make no changes for the home matches against Guildford in the league and Old Longtonians in the cup.

Toughness is a commodity that Hounslow will need for their away cup match against Canterbury. Paul King, the Hounslow manager, expects Nick Taylor, his goalkeeper, to be kept busy, but said: "Much will depend on how Bolland plays in deep defence."

## WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 49

### FLOCHEACH

(c) Photosensitisation of hill lambs causing lesions and cropping of the ears. It is thought to be increasing, and may be the same as yellowosis or sart. It may be caused by eating bog asphodel, which has a yellow flower.

### FLAPDRAGON

(e) "A play in which they catch raisins out of burning brandy and extinguishing them by closing the mouth, eat them." That is snapdragon. If you can play snapdragon, you can play flapdragon. The original sense may have been identical with a dialectic sense of snapdragon, viz. a figure of a dragon's head with snapping jaws, carried about by the mummers at Christmas.

### GUTTLE

(a) To eat voraciously, to gormandise. Presumably from gut influenced by gizelle Thackeray, *Critical Review*, 1844: "Sleepers' page putting the figs in the basket which had brought the asp."

### ARISTOTLEY

(b) The art or "science" of dining. From the Greek *driston* breakfast, *lunch* + *logia* discourse. "The Romans defied all the rules of aristotley by their abominable excesses."

**SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE**  
1 Bxg7 Nxfg (1 ... Bxg7 2 Ne7+ Kh8 3 Nxe6 Bxg2+ Nxf7 c3 5 Nxc6 Nxb6 and White will be a pawn up) 2 Nxb6+ Kh8 3 Nxf7+ Kgb8 4 Nxb6+ with perpetual check.

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THE TIMES FRIDAY NOVEMBER 28 1997

## TELEVISION CHOICE

### Too young to drink

999 Lifesavers  
BBC1, 8.00pm

The 999 series is usually about people who go through dreadful experiences but manage to survive to tell the tale. The tradition is broken tonight in a special edition devoted to underage drinking. Among those not appearing is Graham Bailey. He died on a railway line next to the pub where he had drunk more than six pints of lager at a friend's birthday party. He was 14. We also hear about Leigh Green, who became addicted to alcohol after starting drinking at 11. The habit has not only split his family but led him to crime and prison. These and other cases put flesh on a survey showing that some 140,000 children in Britain under 16 drink the equivalent of seven pints of beer a week. The programme includes an information film on the physical and social effects of alcohol, made with the Health Education Authority.

War Walks  
BBC2, 8.00pm

Professor Richard Holmes may remind some viewers of Dr Magnus Pyke, another man of learning who became a distinguished television populariser. The two men are not dissimilar in looks and they have the same bustling enthusiasm for their subject. In the arm-waving department, however, Pyke still reigns supreme. Tonight Holmes reaches the English Civil War and the decisive battle at Naseby in Northamptonshire in June 1645. Even those who find the period less than gripping will respond to Holmes' spirited narrative which, as usual, is good on the historical background and the weaponry and does its best to evoke the sense of place. But while the site of the conflict is still yielding up musket balls and other artefacts of battle, the seeds of oil seed rape give the area a most on-17th century appearance.

Most Wanted  
ITV, 9.00pm

This is essentially a variation on the *Crimeswatch* formula of using television to appeal to the public to help solve crimes. As the title implies, the emphasis is on people the police most want to find, whether dangerous criminals or missing persons thought to be at risk. One of tonight's appeals



Routledge goes undercover (BBC1, 9.30pm)

concerns a serial rapist. According to forensic tests he has committed three attacks in the past two years but the police suspect him of many more. He is thought to be a lorry driver, and his attacks are becoming more vicious each time. The series also includes features on the latest developments in detection and novel ways of running home advice on crime prevention. The hosts are Penny Smith, who presents *Crime Monthly* in the ITV London region, and Dermot Murnaghan of ITN and *The Big Story*.

Hetty Wainthrop Investigates  
BBC1, 9.30pm

Patricia Routledge's OAP detective returns for a third series to right more wrongs and to leave the world, or at least Lancashire, a better place. Like *Dangerfield*, which it has succeeded in this slot, it is a show to feel comfortable with. The portents may appear to be on the dark side, and none more so than in tonight's plot about an arsonist terrorising a council estate. But what appears to be big crimes turn out to be controllable and nobody gets seriously hurt. Although it is not very believable that a woman should celebrate her senior citizenship by setting up a detective agency, and even less that the police should take her seriously, Routledge's expertise and sympathetic performance is a continued delight. The same can be said of Dominic Monaghan as Henry's even more unlikely young assistant. Peter Waymark

## RADIO CHOICE

### Performance on 3: Prokofiev Festival

Radio 3, 7.30pm

This pick of a pretty thin night is this, the first three broadcasts from the Festival Hall which will feature works by Sergei Prokofiev that are not often played. Tonight's programme, narrated by Simon Callow, focuses on early compositions, written at a time when Prokofiev, having won a place at the St Petersburg Conservatory when he was only 13, had emerged as an anti-traditionalist. Tonight's programme starts with the *Violin Concerto No 1* and includes, at 8.25, *Chout: Tale of the Buffoon*, a ballet commissioned by Diaghilev. That is preceded, at 8.05, by a word portrait of the composer who had written two operas by the age of 11 and whose musical output was to continue to be prodigious for the rest of his life (he died in 1953).

## RADIO 1

6.00am Kevin Greening and Zoë Ball 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley, includes at 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Steel 4.00 Dave Pearce 6.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Pete Tong: Essential Selection 8.00 Judge Jules 11.00 Westwood: Radio 1 Rep Show 2.00pm The Jungle 4.00 in the Jungle 4.30 Charlie Jordan

## RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester 7.00 Water Up to Wogen 8.00 Ken Bruce 9.00 Jimmy Young 1.00pm Double Thrower 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Hubert Gregg 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night 9.15 Kee 9.30 Listen to the Band 10.00 Radio 2 12.00pm Charles Novis 4.00 Diana Louisa Jordan

## RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00 Nick Campbell: Topical Phone-in, plus Euros and health issues 12.00 Midday with Matt 2.00pm Russia on Five 4.00 Nationwide 7.00 Games 7.30pm Eurovision 10.00 News 11.00 Sports Roundup 11.30 Major Killers 12.00 Sports Roundup 1.00 Newshour 2.00 News 2.00s Outlook 2.30 Multitrack Alternative 3.00 Afternoon 4.00 German 6.00pm Football 7.00 Radio 5 Live 8.00 The New Europe 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 News 11.20pm Off the Shelf 11.30 Europe Today 5.00 Europe News 7.15 Off the Shelf: The Handmaid's Tale 7.30 Music Review 8.00 News 8.10 Pauses for Thought 8.15 Westway 8.30 John Peel 9.00 News 9.15 Children's Corner 10.00 World Business Report 11.00 Children's Corner 10.30 BBC World Business Report 11.30 Major Killers 12.00 Sports Roundup 1.00 News 12.00pm World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Major Killers 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 News 1.00 News 2.00s Outlook 2.30 Multitrack Alternative 3.00 Afternoon 4.00 German 6.00pm Football 7.00 Radio 5 Live 8.00 The New Europe 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 News 11.20pm Off the Shelf 11.30 Europe Today 5.00 Europe News 7.15 Off the Shelf: News in German (6.00 only) 7.00 News 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Pauses for Thought 7.30 Multitrack Alternative 8.00 NewsHour 10.00 News 10.30 World Business Report 11.00 News 11.30 Europe 11.45 Sports Roundup 12.00 News 12.30pm Off the Shelf 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 News 1.00 News 2.00s Outlook 2.30 Multitrack Alternative 3.00 Afternoon 4.00 German 6.00pm Football 7.00 Radio 5 Live 8.00 The New Europe 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 News 11.20pm Off the Shelf 11.30 Europe Today 5.00 Europe News 7.15 Off the Shelf: News in German (6.00 only) 7.00 News 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Pauses for Thought 7.30 Multitrack Alternative 8.00 NewsHour 10.00 News 10.30 World Business Report 11.00 News 11.30 Europe 11.45 Sports Roundup 12.00 News 12.30pm Off the Shelf 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 News 1.00 News 2.00s Outlook 2.30 Multitrack Alternative 3.00 Afternoon 4.00 German 6.00pm Football 7.00 Radio 5 Live 8.00 The New Europe 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 News 11.20pm Off the Shelf 11.30 Europe Today 5.00 Europe News 7.15 Off the Shelf: News in German (6.0



**RACING 47**

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# SPORT

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 28 1997

**TENNIS 46**

Swedes preparing  
Davis Cup  
ambush for Sampras



REBECCA NADEN

**Van Gaal offers consolation**

## Newcastle gain support from unlikely source

BY DAVID MADDOCK

EVEN in the post-match press conference, Newcastle United's venture into the Nou Camp stadium could not shake off the surreal qualities that had surrounded their European Cup Champions' League meeting with Barcelona.

When Louis van Gaal, the coach of the Spanish club, spoke, he did so in the language of the visiting team, waiting for it to be translated for the benefit of the local media with an air of almost complete indifference.

Van Gaal has some Spanish, but his mistrust of journalists in Barcelona is such that he preferred to converse with them, grudgingly, in English. Only when the Spanish press had departed did he visibly relax and open up to the extent that he almost broke into a smile. His theme? Football in England.

The former coach of Ajax is something of an aficionado of the FA Carling Premiership. His affection for the English game is apparently stronger than that for the sport in the country where he now plies his trade. The great tactician and organiser admires, naturally enough, the discipline of English players.

Surprisingly, he also has time for the standard of the game in Britain. When many would mock Newcastle's desperately flat performance in Barcelona, Van Gaal placed an emphasis on the positive.

In particular, he suggested that there is no need for pessimism about the future of the game in England, despite Newcastle's early exit from the Champions' League. "I like Newcastle and I like the way they play," he said. "But when you lose your two strikers you are almost finished."

"Alan Shearer is one of the

best strikers around and any team without him and their second striker would find it impossible. But I think in Shearer, English football has a symbol that raises hope. Not only does he prove there is great technique in your game, but he will remain in England.

"I wanted to sign him when I was coach at Ajax, but I know it would be very difficult for me to sign him now. He earns a million dollars a year in England and if someone offers him 1½ million dollars, it would not matter to him.

Gross profit \_\_\_\_\_ 49

English football has the money to keep all its best players now and bring in the best overseas players. In a very short time that will become normal."

Van Gaal's assessment was accurate in the sense that Newcastle would certainly have proved a greater threat had they been able to draw on their first-choice forwards. However, their performance in the Nou Camp illustrated a constant British failing of recent seasons.



Van Gaal: admiring

Everyone expected John Barnes to play up front in Barcelona, including, it seems, the Newcastle players. Kenny Dalglish decided to employ him in midfield, but even his team did not know that until the eve of the game. Thus Newcastle went into an important match not having once tried out a new formation.

Whereas Barcelona have worked on their system since July, honing every aspect of the new demands of Van Gaal, Newcastle go into matches with little preparation in training for whichever system they may adopt and play mostly off the cuff, relying on individual skills.

It may work in the Premiership, but against the continental elite it frequently does not. Of England's representatives in Europe, only Manchester United have a defined system that the players work on constantly in training, allowing them to feel comfortable with their tactics in matches.

This lack of preparation is a throw-back to the past when physically strong English teams felt that they could simply turn up and hold an advantage. Now they are matched in every department by European rivals who are better prepared tactically.

It is something that Dalglish must quickly address, but for the present he has more pressing problems. Once again the paucity of his squad was exposed and with it the now increasingly pertinent question of why money has not been made available to address the situation?

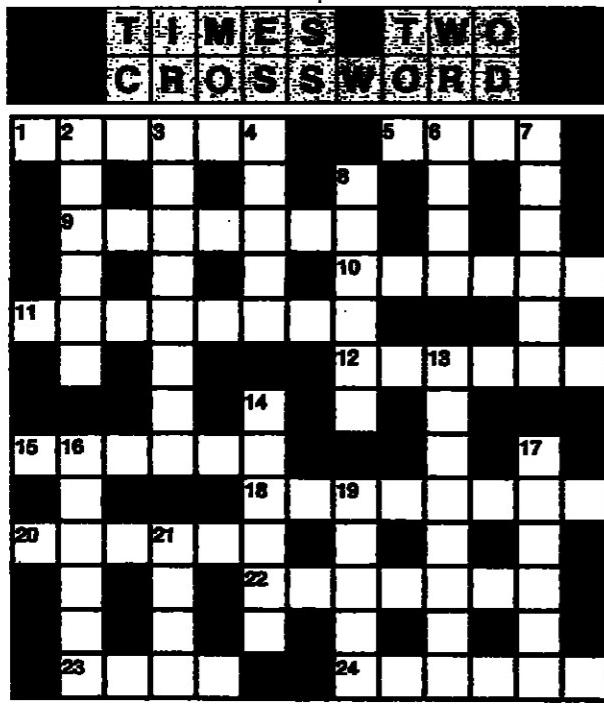
In his post-match analysis, the Newcastle manager clearly indicated that he needs to strengthen his squad, and the feeling persists that he is extremely frustrated at the lack of funds made available to do so, despite assurances when he took over at St James' Park that money was available.

According to Showtime, its contract with Don King, Holyfield's promoter, allows it to demand 30 days' notice to negotiate for the contest and match a bid by any other television company. However, HBO is adamant that Lewis is contracted to appear exclusively on its channels.

Panos Eliades, the head of Panix, the company promoting Lewis, said last night: "I've just spoken to HBO and they have put Showtime on notice that the fight can only be shown on TVKO [HBO's pay-per-view arm]."

"Everything was looking good, but then we ran into trouble when Don King went to Showtime to ask them to waive their rights. They refused. And HBO naturally cannot be expected to budge either as they have Lennox under exclusive contract."

"He's going to be a really good player, no doubt about it. He's a super kid, who wants to learn, and at 6ft he's already a great size for a centre half," Hamilton said. "He can play the ball out of defence well and is very level-headed and sensible — a great pro."



No 1263

- ACROSS**
- Rock layers (6)
  - Frame of mind (4)
  - Displaced person (7)
  - Accomplish, reach (6)
  - Twelve Labour man (8)
  - Plough and the Stars playwright (6)
  - Jail officer (6)
  - Hamlet's uncle; "I, --" (Graves) (8)
  - Mark of infamy (6)
  - Unpalatable choice (7)
  - Disembowels; courage (4)
  - Printed card, receipt (6)
- SOLUTION TO NO 1262**
- ACROSS:** 1 Cleftite 5 Smug 8 Bismarck 9 Area 11 Along 12 Lexicon 13 Export 15 Access 18 Plateau 19 Rocky 21 Wake 22 In camera 23 Pink 24 Kneekerk
- DOWN:** 1 Cabbage 2 Lasso 3 Beargarden 4 Tackie 6 Miracle 7 Grain 10 Exacerbate 14 Harken 16 Skylark 17 Turn in 18 Power 20 Crewe

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Yawning glory: Paul Grayson, the Northampton fly half, found the England training session yesterday somewhat less than gripping. There will be no rest, though, for Nick Greenstock, who will replace Phil de Glanville for the match at Twickenham on Saturday. Report, page 48

## TV dispute may delay Lewis bout

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

LENNOX LEWIS'S bout with Evander Holyfield for the undisputed heavyweight championship of the world could be delayed indefinitely because of a wrangle between HBO and Showtime, two leading American cable television companies. Both are claiming the right to show the bout. It appears the matter can only be resolved by Holyfield taking a hand.

According to Showtime, its contract with Don King, Holyfield's promoter, allows it to demand 30 days' notice to negotiate for the contest and match a bid by any other television company. However, HBO is adamant that Lewis is contracted to appear exclusively on its channels.

Panos Eliades, the head of Panix, the company promoting Lewis, said last night: "I've just spoken to HBO and they have put Showtime on notice that the fight can only be shown on TVKO [HBO's pay-per-view arm]."

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"He's going to be a really good player, no doubt about it. He's a super kid, who wants to learn, and at 6ft he's already a great size for a centre half," Hamilton said. "He can play the ball out of defence well and is very level-headed and sensible — a great pro."

"It is something that Dalglish must quickly address, but for the present he has more pressing problems. Once again the paucity of his squad was exposed and with it the now increasingly pertinent question of why money has not been made available to address the situation?"

In his post-match analysis, the Newcastle manager clearly indicated that he needs to strengthen his squad, and the feeling persists that he is extremely frustrated at the lack of funds made available to do so, despite assurances when he took over at St James' Park that money was available.

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